

Telephone warning too late, police say

New IRA gang blamed for station bombs

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE bomb that ripped through a crowded railway station concourse in London yesterday, killing one person and injuring 40 others, is believed by police to be the work of a new IRA team determined to attack ordinary citizens as well as political and military targets.

As the search for evidence continued last night, senior police sources disclosed that they were now virtually certain that the mortar bomb attack against Downing Street 12 days ago and the explosions at Victoria and Paddington stations yesterday were the work of the same gang. One official spoke of the start of a "new phase" in the IRA's mainland operations.

The first bomb exploded at Paddington station at 4.20am, damaging the roof of the concourse, scaffolding and television monitors at the end of platforms six and seven. Nobody was hurt and police said later that no warning had been given.

The second bomb exploded at Victoria station as commuters crowded onto platforms at

Victoria, minutes after the bomb...
New departure for IRA campaign...
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the beginning of the morning rush-hour. Police dismissed claims last night that they should have acted more decisively after being told shortly after 7am that a man with an Irish accent had telephoned the London Transport Travel Centre to warn that bombs would go off "in all mainline stations in 45 minutes". At 7.40am a bomb exploded in a litter bin on the main concourse of Victoria station.

Had the device, containing between 2lbs and 5lbs of explosive, gone off 20 minutes later, there would probably have been three times as many casualties. As it was, about a dozen commuters were hit by shrapnel and flying glass in the most deliberate strike against "civilians" since the 1983 Harrods bombing in which six people were killed and 77 were injured.

One eye-witness spoke of a man who had appeared to have half his face blown away, while others described commuters walking almost casually out of the station. The dead man, who was in his 30s, was killed instantly after a piece of shrapnel was embedded in his chest.

Fourteen ambulances arrived at the scene within minutes and the injured were taken to Westminster and St Thomas's hospitals in central London. Two patients were later transferred to Charing Cross hospital, one with an eye injury requiring specialist treatment and another with head injuries that needed neurosurgery.

Surgons carried out about a dozen major operations during the day. One woman in her twenties had to have a foot amputated and three other patients underwent complex limb surgery to rebuild their legs.

The youngest survivor was a boy aged 12 who was operated on for cuts to his legs. Meirion Thomas, a consultant surgeon at Westminster, said he had dealt with victims from the Harrods bombing in 1983, but: "The injuries today are much, much worse."

The blasts brought chaos for commuters, effectively closing the capital yesterday morning to railway passengers. British Rail, which closed all mainline stations after the second explosion, estimated that about 470,000 commuters had their journey to work disrupted. Paddington station and parts of Victoria were still shut yesterday evening, causing further commuter delays.

George Churchill-Coleman, head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch, said the warning, if genuine, was deliberately timed to prevent the emergency services acting in time to find the Victoria device. A London Transport spokesman said the call had been taken by a travel information clerk. "The caller said the stations should be evacuated. A code was given

that seemed to identify the caller as being from the IRA, which is what he claimed."

A Scotland Yard spokesman said, however: "No code word exists which would have alerted us to this caller in particular." He said it was not unusual for hoaxers to give a code word.

"The alleged code word used has never been used before. There is no recognised code used by the Provisional IRA."

Mr Churchill-Coleman told journalists: "You will appreciate that the vagueness of the information, the manner in which it was passed, coupled with the time lapse involved, was quite deliberate. The perpetrators knew very well that there was insufficient time for the emergency services to locate and deal with the device."

The attack, which the commander was convinced was the IRA's work, had been "totally indiscriminate and vicious". He urged the public to be extra vigilant.

The assistant chief constable of the British Transport police also defended the decision not to close all the mainline stations after the warning. Ian McGregor said the large number of hoax bomb threats received each day prevented rail managers, the only people with the authority to close stations, with fine judgments. On average, British Transport police dealt with six hoax calls or suspected devices every day in London.

There had been 29 hoax telephone calls received in the capital last Friday and by the time the Victoria station bomb went off 19 such calls had already been taken.

However, Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the RMT, the biggest rail union, said hard questions needed to be asked about the police's response to the incidents. "If there was a direct warning 40 minutes before the Victoria explosion what were the police doing?"

Last night, John Prescott, shadow transport secretary, called on ministers to discover and make public precisely what actions were taken in the aftermath of the explosion at Paddington station.

He released figures showing that the number of British Transport police, responsible for security on station concourses, had fallen from 1,842 in 1982 to 1,488 by April 1990. He is due to meet Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, this afternoon to see what further security measures can be introduced at railway stations.



After the bomb: debris on the main concourse of Victoria station left by yesterday's explosion, which killed one man and injured 40 others

Heseltine opts for property tax

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND PHILIP WEBSTER

SCRAPPING the poll tax and replacing it with a property tax based on the number of people living in a household has emerged as the scheme most favoured by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, in the cabinet's review of local government.

The plan topped the agenda at a meeting of ministers under the chairmanship of John Major at Westminster last night. Mr Heseltine expects to be able to make a Commons statement on his intentions before Parliament rises for the Easter recess.

High-ranking environment sources insisted last night that the community charge in any recognisable form was doomed. "No-one is arguing for its retention," one insider said, indicating that there was widespread support in the government for the formula emerging from the environment department.

The detailed disclosure of Mr Heseltine's latest proposals comes as the environment secretary fights a rearguard action against influential cabinet colleagues pressing for local finance legislation before the general election. Mr Heseltine maintains that his scheme represents such a fundamental change that it could not be rushed through in a bill squeezed into the last legislative programme of the present Parliament.

The environment secretary will be urged to outline his intentions in today's Opposition debate on the poll tax. Although he is unlikely to go into much detail, he is determined to unveil his scheme in good time for the local elections in May. He is irritated by what he sees as attempts by his cabinet colleagues to force him into premature legislation.

The new property tax would be based on floor areas rather than capital values or rate. Continued on page 18, col 1

Help extended, page 3

Moscow's peace plan fails to halt allied push

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Iraqi foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, flew home from Moscow last night with a Soviet peace plan but the White House said it expected no breakthrough.

The administration was expecting details from Moscow, but Martin Fletcher, the presidential spokesman, said it had always anticipated a ground war and that was fast approaching.

"All our hopes at this point are on the conflict in the air and on the ground in terms of pushing Iraq out of Kuwait," the allied war effort was on course and "we've been given no reason to change it at this time," he said. Asked if the Soviet plan could delay a ground offensive, he replied: "I wouldn't make any assumptions."

Washington had given Moscow no such assurances. The only question of interest to the US was whether Iraq would or would not agree to a massive, rapid and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait.

Announcing the outcome of yesterday's talks, President Gorbachev's spokesman, Vitali Ignatenko, said that the president had proposed "a specific plan of action to settle the conflict... by political means."

"We believe," he went on with barely concealed pleasure, "that it was accepted with interest and understanding by the Iraqi side."

Mr Ignatenko declined to elaborate on the plan, but said

that it was "detailed, carefully thought out and precise". He could not reveal more, he said, because it was "an extremely delicate and utterly crucial moment". He said Moscow expected a reply to its proposals "without delay".

By the time Mr Ignatenko made his statement, Mr Aziz was already in the air on his way back to Baghdad via Tehran. Mr Ignatenko indicated that he might return to Moscow in person with the Iraqi leader's response.

The spokesman described the talks as "constructive" — a sharp contrast with official reports of Mr Aziz's visit to Moscow in October, when the Soviet side made clear that there had been sharp differences of opinion. According to Mr Ignatenko, Mr Aziz had clarified that the points attached to the proposals made by Iraq last Friday were to be regarded as constituting a "programme", not "conditions" for withdrawal from Kuwait.

The Soviet plan, which Mr Ignatenko said had been drafted by President Gorbachev, is widely regarded as offering the last chance of avoiding a land war for Kuwait. Its acceptance would have the additional benefit for Moscow of boosting Mr Gorbachev's flagging reputation abroad, which was greatly damaged by the army's intervention in the Baltic.

No officials in Moscow have divulged details of what

must now become known as the Gorbachev plan, but one feature is believed to be a Soviet guarantee that Iraq will remain a sovereign state and keep its pre-war boundaries. Other elements can be construed from statements made recently by Soviet and visiting diplomats and from Iraq's recent set of proposals.

The Soviet capital has been a hive of diplomatic activity for the past week, as Mr Gorbachev apparently sounded out West European and Kuwaiti opinion about his peace plan. Yesterday morning he was reported to have telephoned Chancellor Kohl of Germany in connection with the visit of Mr Aziz, though the content of the conversation was not divulged.

Both Yevgeni Primakov, Continued on page 18, col 6

Quadrant for allies, page 6
Saddam's home front, page 7
Total war, page 10
Leading article and Letters, page 11

PSBR of £10bn may hit budget

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE Chancellor may announce a substantially higher public sector borrowing requirement than many private economists have been expecting when he presents his budget next month.

Because of the effects of the recession on the government's revenues and expenditure plans, Treasury economists may forecast a borrowing requirement in the region of £10 billion, even with no net tax cuts or deliberate expansions in public spending.

The swing from an expected debt repayment of £3 billion this year would represent one of the sharpest deteriorations in the government's fiscal position on record. But worse deficit projections are understood to have been produced by the Treasury's model.

The Treasury's expectation of a large borrowing requirement next year were not affected by better-than-expected figures on revenues and borrowing in January. Full report, page 19

Soviet prices rise by 60%

The Soviet prime minister, Valentin Pavlov, said yesterday that retail prices would have to rise on average by 60 per cent across the board if the Soviet economy was not to run out of money.

He promised substantial compensation for all sections of the population to cushion the blow. Page 18

Soviet shakedown, page 8

Superpit rejected

British Coal's plans for a £400 million superpit in the Midlands were rejected on environmental grounds yesterday by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary. Page 4

Barclays anger

The Banking Insurance and Finance Union has reacted angrily to Barclays' decision to shed up to 17,000 jobs within five years. Union leaders will meet the bank today to discuss the job losses. Page 19

Disabled hope

The appointment of Britain's first blind judge may help to break down barriers for the disabled. Page 27

Shaping up



Joanne Woodward, above, tipped for the Best Actress Oscar, discloses how real-life observations helped to shape the characterisations in *Mr and Mrs Bridge* — the film in which she appears with husband, Paul Newman. Page 15

Dexter's quest

Ted Dexter, the England cricket committee chairman, will be seeking re-election at a meeting of the Test and County Cricket Board next month. Page 34

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Ten out of ten for maths teachers (and pupils)

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

AT LAST, top marks today for the beleaguered state education system: the schools inspectorate has abandoned its normal coded messages to deliver a glowing verdict on the state of mathematics.

Less than a week after Eric Bolton, the senior chief inspector, insisted that the deficiencies in schools were being exaggerated, his staff produced supporting evidence. Their first report on the impact of the national curriculum registers clear signs of improvement in the teaching of mathematics.

In the first year of the national curriculum, the proportion of poor or unsatisfactory maths fell in both primary and secondary schools. Three-quarters of lessons observed by

inspectors are considered good or adequate.

Even an increase in the use of calculators by five year-olds finds favour with the inspectors. "Where they were used sensibly, in conjunction with appropriate mental calculations, pupil performance benefited," the report says.

The 34-page report, which concentrated on provision for five and 11-year-olds, says: "The large majority of schools had responded to the challenge of the national curriculum by reviewing schemes of work and generally evaluating their practices, although some schools had hardly begun the process."

Teachers are said to have coped well with an increased workload and standards were rising even though uncertainties about assessment, recording and reporting pupils'

progress had caused additional difficulties. The most successful schools are those where the staff worked as a team, effectively led by a maths co-ordinator or head of department.

In spite of staff shortages, in a quarter of schools, there had been greater co-operation and sharing of ideas about the teaching of maths and high attendance at in-service training sessions.

Microcomputers were in more frequent use and, especially in primary schools, work was better matched to pupils' capabilities.

The inspectors' criticisms are levelled partly at the resources available to teachers, although teachers of the youngest children sometimes lacked confidence and some pupils were not found to be sufficiently taxed by their work. Equipment for 11-year-olds was often unsatisfactory and only a third

of secondary schools had the specialist rooms inspectors thought desirable.

In visits to almost 700 schools in 1989 and 1990, 24 per cent of primary work was considered poor, compared with 29 per cent the previous year, while in secondary schools the proportion fell from 35 per cent to 27 per cent.

A spokeswoman for the National Union of Teachers said gleefully: "Once again the teachers have come up trumps and have put in the work to make the national curriculum a success."

"The critics have been looking at schools from a very narrow perspective without understanding the advances in education or the changing demands of society."

Mathematics, key stages one and three: a report by HM Inspectorate on the first year, 1989-90; Stationery Office, £2.95

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IRA TACTICS

Bombings indicate new direction in mainland campaign

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE combination of railway station bombings and hoax warnings yesterday marked a new departure in the IRA's campaign on the mainland.

For the first time in recent years the principle objective seems to have been to cause the maximum disruption to the largest number of people. The bombings achieved as never before what IRA leaders often describe as "creating a war situation in Britain" by disrupting the journeys of 500,000 commuters in London.

That tactic has been practised and refined over the years in Belfast, where simultaneous bomb warnings, many of them hoaxes, bring the city to a standstill about twice a month.

Last month, the IRA abandoned cars on all the bridges across the River Lagan in the city centre, on roads leading to the motorway and Lisburn and on the road to the airport. Commercial life came to a standstill for most of the day.

The objective in Northern Ireland is to demonstrate defiance of British rule and to highlight the IRA's belief that the province is being run without the consent of the people and is ungovernable. Disruption tactics are also part of the organisation's constantly changing strategy designed to spread and tie down as many members of the police and army as possible.

The deployment of this approach in Britain seems to be an attempt to convey to large numbers of people what a senior IRA commander described as the purpose of the Downing Street bombing in an interview published in Dublin last week. He said that the mortars fired by the IRA were designed to bring home to the prime minister and his cabinet "the reality of their rule [in Northern Ireland] directly to them and their conscience".

In Belfast, disruption bombings cause inconvenience and frayed tempers rather than casualties. The IRA has perfected abandoning hijacked cars and leaving bombs in shops, and the

security forces are extremely efficient at clearing large areas of the city at short notice, often driving through pedestrian areas warning people by loud speaker to leave or stay indoors and away from windows.

IRA commanders must have known that transferring the strategy to London, where the task of evacuating 11 stations would be enormous, was likely to cause civilian casualties.

It may well be that this was deliberate, the intention being that people should be killed and injured so that future bomb warnings on the mainland would leave the police no choice but to evacuate areas and cause disruption. In the IRA's terms that would be a major step towards achieving what the prime minister said he would not allow: letting "terrorists" disrupt or dictate the pace of life in the capital.

Together with the Downing Street attack, yesterday's bombings emphasise again the IRA's perception that activity on the mainland is far more beneficial in terms of media reaction than that in Northern Ireland, where security force surveillance is intense and many operations fail, are called off, or lead to arrest.

The bombings come amid

signs, according to some analysts, of a hardening of attitudes among top figures in the IRA, or possibly the emergence of a more ruthless breed of leaders apparently unconcerned at the political and presentational costs of killing civilians unconnected either with the security forces or Britain's presence in Northern Ireland.

In Belfast, the year began with a wave of fire bombings on commercial premises, which caused tens of millions of pounds of damage. It was the first time that that tactic, which was widespread in the 1970s, had been used for years in a comprehensive manner. Like random attacks on civilians, it had originally been abandoned because it was unpopular with the movement's supporters.

Another possibly significant sign was the deliberate and strong signals from members of Sinn Féin at the party's annual conference in Dublin recently, where members emphasised that they no longer wished to be called upon to justify IRA actions and seemed to be distancing themselves from the organisation. That led to speculation that they knew what the IRA was planning and were preparing their position in advance.



Off the rails: traffic jams on London bridge (top) and Southwark bridge while Cannon Street station lies silent during yesterday morning's rush hour

THE POLICE

Scotland Yard chief defends squad's record

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

GEORGE Churchill-Coleman, head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch, was, as usual, carrying the burden of his office with apparent lightness yesterday as he fielded questions from the media at the squad's central London headquarters.

A casual observer could not have guessed that the bombs at Paddington and Victoria stations were, respectively, the 26th and 27th IRA attacks to be conducted on mainland Britain since August 1988. During that period, the branch and Mr Churchill-Coleman in particular have been subjected to some criticism about their performance against the IRA, which has struck repeatedly in spite of supposedly high levels of security.

The commander, whose bluff exterior disguises a shrewd intelligence, freely admits that the squad's record could be better. But he believes that few people outside the police or security services appreciate the difficulties of fighting organisations as ruthless and determined as the IRA.

While two IRA members were recently jailed for 30 years after being arrested in Wales last September and six other alleged members are awaiting trial before British courts, a string of mainland atrocities committed over the past 12 years remain unsolved, including the murders of the Tory MPs Airey Neave and Ian Gow and those of seven military bandmen in Regent's Park in 1982. It is

also true that some successes such as the discovery of a huge arms cache in south London in December 1988 stemmed from remarkable good luck.

However, detectives have had some notable successes, among them the capture of the bombmaker behind the attack on a cavalry troop in Hyde Park in 1982 and the man who planted the bomb that almost killed Margaret Thatcher in Brighton in 1984.

In Ulster, the police's success rate is better, but there the difficulties of gathering intelligence — the key to tackling groups such as the IRA — while still substantial are less acute than on the mainland, where it is easier for gunmen and bombers to hide within local communities. Police and other security services on the mainland also face a much broader range of terrorist threats than their counterparts across the Irish sea.

As pressure grows on the anti-terrorist branch to improve its successes, there are new problems for Mr Churchill-Coleman, who has headed the squad for more than five years. Detectives are now all but certain that the team responsible for many of the attacks conducted since August 1988, when the IRA resumed its mainland campaign, has been replaced by another, more powerfully armed cell. That team, which police believe carried out the mortar bomb strike against Downing Street and yesterday's bombings, is plainly determined to be more audacious and, on yesterday's evidence, less scrupulous in its targeting.

The commander, whose name appeared on an IRA hit-list found two years ago, believes it is vital that the government and the police respond in a firm but measured manner to the IRA's latest mainland campaign.

Far more reflective than his stolid image would suggest, he remains deeply sceptical of demands for greater police powers. "The IRA want us to overreact and to panic," he said in a recent interview. "But with professional policing and the help of the public, this campaign will be defeated."



Churchill-Coleman: "IRA want us to overreact"

POLITICAL REACTION

Prescott urges higher priority for rail security

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Prescott, Labour's transport spokesman, wrote last night to Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, asking what actions were taken after the warnings to prevent further trains entering main-line London stations and to prevent potential injury to passengers.

Mr Prescott released figures showing that the number of British Transport police, responsible for security on station concourses, had been reduced from 1,842 in 1982 to 1,488 in 1989-90 and called for the numbers to be restored. In his letter he asked how

many police were available to search stations.

He urged the transport department to set up a conference with British Rail and other interested parties to discuss how inconvenience to travellers could be minimised in dealing with emergencies like yesterday's bombs.

Mr Prescott, who will meet Mr Rifkind at the Commons this afternoon to demand a higher priority for measures to counter such incidents, told Mr Rifkind in his letter that he would want to know when the British Transport police and the transport department were

informed of any early warnings about a potential terrorist threat at London stations.

Mr Prescott had earlier called for a Commons statement on the transport aspects of the bomb attacks but Roy Hattersley, the shadow home secretary, had agreed with the government that there should be no statement to MPs. It was felt that it would have merely boosted the bombers.

Politicians in all parties condemned the attacks. After discussing the incidents with the prime minister, Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, said that he was "appalled and

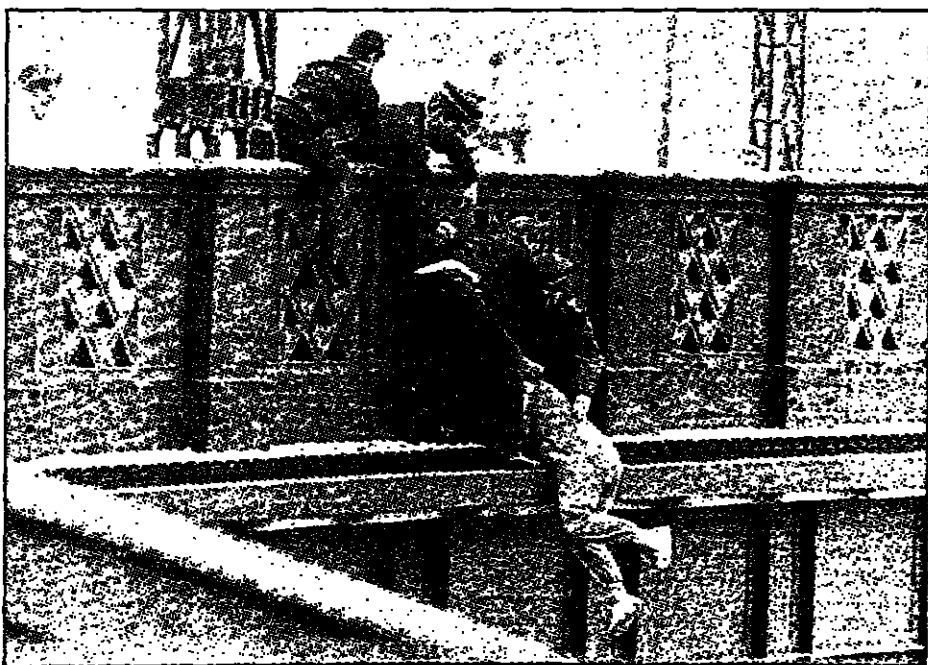
disgusted by this vicious attack on innocent people going to their work". He added: "The concourse of Victoria station is covered in blood. This is the act of murderous criminals."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said that the bomb attack was "vicious, cowardly and futile" but the British people would not be bombed into submission.

The Labour leader Neil Kinnock said that the bombings should not be allowed to result in additional infringements on the rhythm of life.

However, Ivor Stanbrook, chairman of the backbench Northern Ireland committee, said that security measures should be stepped up.

Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, had been sitting on a train at Victoria bound for Gatwick airport when the bomb exploded. She later caught a flight from Heathrow to meet her commitments in the North-East. At the opening of an old peoples' unit she said: "Under no circumstances should we allow or enable terrorists to influence or affect the way in which we run our lives."



Bridge struggle: Policeman battling to prevent a young woman from falling into the Thames from Lambeth Bridge yesterday. Police rushed from Victoria station, scene of the bombing, to the bridge for the rescue

Minister extends help for those hit hard by poll tax

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AN EXTRA 11 million people hit hard by the poll tax are expected to benefit from a scheme announced yesterday aimed at reducing political damage to the government from this year's bills.

The new regulations give details of the government's £1.7 billion replacement for "transitional relief" plan, which helped those who had seen the sharpest rise in bills since the abolition of rates.

The renamed "community charge reduction scheme" will operate from April 1 and, according to the government, will benefit 18 million poll tax payers in nearly nine million households. It means that almost half the 37 million people liable to the charge in England and Wales might now be eligible for help in paying.

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, said: "Twice as many people should get help with their bills next year. Those who already qualify for transitional relief will get additional help and many people, living in properties which had a rates bill of £500 or less will be able to look

forward to three-figure reductions in their charges."

He added: "People living in sheltered housing will get help for the first time and the scheme gives extra help to the elderly and disabled people who did not pay rates."

The scheme is intended to limit to £2 a week what a two-person household would lose through the switch from rates, though, in order to preserve some accountability, it does not protect against council-imposed increases.

The scheme assumes that councils spend within government guidelines. The environment department said: "If the local authority sets a community charge level more than that assumed by the government, then the more people will pay. People will still get help from the government, but only up to a certain degree. This maintains the element of local accountability."

Last night, Labour accused Mr Heseltine of misleading the public on the scheme's impact. David Blunkett, shadow local government minister, said that it was not based

on actual poll tax bills, but on notional figures often less than the bills for 1990-91. He added that the scheme would discriminate against larger households as they would have relief based on a household of two charge payers.

Mr Heseltine's plans provide extra help for people in charitable homes and an extra £150 million extension of transitional relief for old people in sheltered housing.

The new regulations are meant to limit the amount a council can charge a household above its last rates bill. People will qualify for help if their poll tax bill is £104 or more above their last rates bill. Reductions will be calculated from the baseline of the 1989-90 rates bill plus £104, and the community charge set out by the government under its scheme or the actual charge, whichever is the lower.

A couple facing a charge bill of £500 at a house whose last rates bill was £150 would be entitled to relief of £246, or £123 each. If there are more people in the household, the relief is shared.

Cooks ask staff to take pay cut

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 7,300 staff of the Thomas Cook travel chain are being asked to take pay cuts of up to 10 per cent in an effort to beat the travel industry slump.

With bookings over 40 per cent down, the company, a subsidiary of Midland Bank, said yesterday that it must cut costs by £25 million this year if widespread redundancies are to be avoided.

More than £13 million can be saved by cutting advertising and other capital expenditure, but £12 million will have to be found from the payroll, staff were told yesterday.

Junior staff will lose as little as 1 per cent of salary, averaging about £13 a month, middle management 5 per cent or about £150 a month, and directors 10 per cent.

Thomas Cook, which last year made a profit of £26 million and sells holidays and business travel through 334 shops nationwide, blamed the Gulf war and the recession for the cuts, which, if effective, could save up to 300 jobs.

Staff aged over 50 are being invited to take early retirement. Others are being encouraged to take unpaid leave.

Christopher Rodrigues, managing director of the Thomas Cook Group, said: "This is going to be the most challenging year anyone in this industry has ever seen. There is going to be a big shake-out within the industry, but we have been around for 150 years and intend being around for a long time yet."

"All the proposals came as a result of discussion with the staff and most of them were their ideas. We have achieved a saving of 10 per cent as a result of the management and staff working together rather than some central dictat."

Mr Rodrigues said: "I am sure that ultimately the market will come back, albeit at a different level."

Since the war began, 57 travel agencies and nine tour operators have gone out of business.

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By CRAIG SETON

ately, the argument we put forward on environmental grounds was very solid. It beat the case for coal. I think the issue is dead in commercial terms, at least for the rest of this century."

Hawthurst Moor would have been developed on a 200-acre site in the six-mile "green wedge" between Coventry and Birmingham known as the Meriden Gap. It is less than a mile from the village of Berkswell, whose inhabitants played a leading role in opposing the plan, and only a few miles from the historic town of Kenilworth. The colliery would have created 1,800 jobs.

The plans would have involved the extraction of 145 million tonnes of coal at depths of between 750 metres and 1,200 metres from the Warwickshire thick coal seam, an especially rich deposit of premium-grade coal to which access was gained from Keresley and Daw Mill.

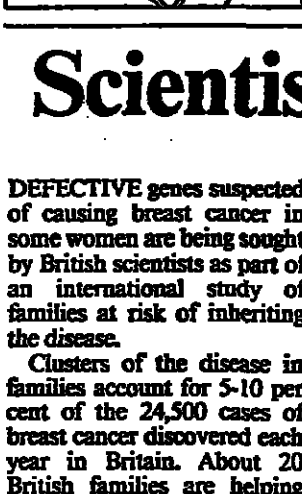
Dr Ken Moses, British Coal's technical director, said yesterday: "We are deeply disappointed at the result. There are many issues that require consideration and that we will be doing before deciding what the next appropriate course of action should be. One thing is certain: the coal is there and it remains a valuable national

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

find their way into it. The society says that even if someone circumvented the access controls on the census data, they would gain nothing unless they guessed or accessed the data by other means. It is unfeasible to other security in the system or to documentation held in strict security. The possibility of evading the controls, simultaneously gaining other information and finding records with sufficiently distinctive characteristics to allow personal identification were so improbable that further safeguards were not warranted.

However, the report says that protection for source documents and computer data is adequate only if cleaning and security staff are employed directly by the census office. It was surprised that the government was considering employing contractors for security and cleaning procedures at input processing centres.

The report also calls for automatic screening or random baggage searching at the central processing office and input stations as a further safeguard against unauthorised abstraction of magnetic media.



Second sight: George Melly (left) and Sir Stephen Spender attend a showing at the Vanessa Devereaux gallery west London, of 13 paintings of nudes by D.H. Lawrence, which were banned from display as obscene in 1929

By SIMON TAST
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

tion fund is such a good idea after all." It appears that no money will be forthcoming.

Later, Mr. Stevenson is drawing up a five-year plan for a British-based European challenge to Hollywood, but it will need government backing. He expects to put proposals to Lord Hesket, the trade minister responsible for the film industry, next month.

Mr. Stevenson said: "The opportunity is there for Europe to challenge Hollywood and it has to be with English-language films, but we can't do it alone and we certainly can't do it without government commitment. We need money for British film makers to negotiate with the Europeans on co-productions without Euroimage, but we also need to be able to co-operate on the making of English-language films which European companies would invest

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

Nigel Spurr, head of the fund's human genetic resources laboratory at Clare Hall, Hertfordshire, said yesterday that each woman in the families had a 50 per cent chance of inheriting one of the genes. "Soon we may be able to tell who has it and who has not. Women who have not can

The £4 million trial, carried out by the two British research groups, the Medical Research Council and the health department, aims to show whether the drug, a well-established treatment for breast cancer, can prevent the onset of the disease. Fifteen hospitals in the UK will participate.

By JILL SHERMAN
SOCIAL SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

Castle reprieved

Community charge payers in Chert will each pay an extra £1 to keep Bodelwyddan castle in council hands. The council planned to sell the £6 million castle as its £300,000 annual running costs were considered too high. Yesterday, however, it decided to give the castle three more years to pay its way. The castle has an art gallery and museum

Heater checked

Police have taken away a

Castle reprieved

Community charge payers in Clwyd will each pay an extra £1 to keep Bodelwyddan castle in county council hands. The council planned to sell the £60 million castle as its £300,000 annual running costs were considered too high. Yesterday, however, it decided to give the castle three more years to pay its way. The castle has an art gallery and museum


Heater checked

Police have taken away a portable gas heater for examination after finding Susan Basford, aged 18, and her daughter Katie, aged three, dead in their first floor flat at Wigginton, Staffordshire. Police said that they were not looking for anyone else in connection with the deaths.

Offence admitted

Robert Willis, a son of Cilla Black, was fined £250 and given five points by Beaconsfield magistrates for a crash in which a motorcyclist died. Willis, aged 20, admitted driving without due care when his car hit the bike near his home in Denham, Buckinghamshire.

By THOMSON PRENTICE



Freud: "All talking cures, but no scientific evaluation?"
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said.

Freud built a pillar of the concept of psychoanalysis on six case histories describing a "talking cure" for the mentally ill or anxious. Professor Sulloway said, however, that recent research had discredited most of the cases. "They are rampant with censorship, distortions, highly dubious reconstructions and exaggerated clinical claims," he said. "One involved a patient who fled therapy in disgust, two actually were not treated by Freud, and another involved no real therapy."

One of the two patients Freud claimed to have cured was the "hysterical" young Isaac, and the other was found to be "a complete misrepresentation of the facts". Professor Sulloway said much of Freud's theories were based on outmoded assumptions from the 19th century. "Freudian psychoanalysis is not a science. It's like a religion."

Morris Eagle, a psychologist at York university, near Toronto, said that psychoanalysis had never been subjected to the rigorous evaluation or control of other fields. "It was rooted in other branches of science and medicine."

Adolf Grunbaum, a philosophy of science scholar at Pittsburgh university, said even the famous Freudian slip might not be real. Freud never proved that the inadvertent slip really betrayed a suppressed psychological meaning, he said. "Nobody knows if there are Freudian slips."

Dorothy Rowe, chairman of the British Psychological Society's psychotherapy section, said: "There are strict Freudians who will not tolerate any criticisms of him. Others, like myself, have developed our own ideas from some of his, and discarded other bits of his work. But I still believe in the Freudian slip."

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Ministers to increase aid for 'absent father orders'

By PETER MULLIGAN AND JOHN WINDER

THE government is to give extra help to employers who operate a scheme to dock money from the pay packets of absent fathers, John Patten, the home office minister, indicated in the Commons last night.

He was moving the second reading of the bill that gives the courts new powers to force absent parents to pay maintenance for their children and to order the money to be deducted from their earnings from the start.

"We are urgently looking at increasing the administrative charge which employers can deduct when complying with an order", he said during

debate on the Maintenance Enforcement bill.

He said that consultations were in progress with the CBI and others about the cost to employers who can now claim 50p in administration costs.

He was pressed by, Stuart Randall, Labour's spokesman, to increase the administrative payment. Employers, Mr Randall said, were suggesting that the true cost would be £10.

Mr Patten said: "What I hope will be the case is that during the passage of the bill I will be in a position to make an announcement about trying to help industry and business in this way."

He said that the purpose of the bill was to improve the collection and enforcement of maintenance in England and Wales by giving new powers to the courts to ensure regular payments.

"Far too many people who are obliged to pay maintenance avoid their responsibility. They do so in a cold and calculating way. They do it as long as possible. They play the maintenance avoidance system with considerable cleverness, with exceptional aptitude."

There were 80,000 enforcement actions in the courts in 1989, but many were abortive because debtors avoided paying arrears until the last possible moment.

The bill would allow courts to order the paying of maintenance payments by attachment of earnings or to order the debtor to open a bank account so as to pay by standing order.

"It is not as draconian as it might first appear. It is a vital provision if we are to prevent some debtors playing the system by dictating themselves, as at present, the method by which they will pay."

A fine of up to £1,000 could be made if a person failed to pay by the particular method specified by the court.

Mr Randall said that he supported the aim of the bill to improve enforcement of maintenance and the principle of courts being able to make attachment-of-income orders.

In practical terms, however, the bill had some deficiencies.



Snow help only if needed

The government will consider giving extra financial help to any local council that has suffered an undue financial burden as a result of the recent bad weather, Michael Portillo, local government minister, said in a written reply. However, he said, present information did not suggest that spending would have exceeded that for which prudent authorities would have budgeted.

County Hall

The government has rejected a suggestion to house the homeless at County Hall, headquarters of the former Greater London Council. In a Commons written reply, Tim Yeo, environment under secretary, said that the London Residuary Body was preparing to dispose of County Hall and to use it for the homeless would not be consistent with its statutory duty.

Candidate

The Liberal Democrats said that Andrew Duff, of Cambridge, will stand against the prime minister in the Huntingdon constituency in the general election. John Major has the biggest majority of any Conservative MP.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Defence; prime minister. Debates on Opposition motions on the poll tax and on manufacturing industry. Lords (2.30): Planning and Compensation bill, report, first day.

Election will wait until war ends, Patten says

By RONALD FAUX

CHRIS Patten, Conservative party chairman, said yesterday that a date for the next general election would not be considered while there was war in the Gulf.

Speaking in the Ribbles Valley by-election campaign, he said that encouraging speculation that might railroad the government into a decision would not be in the national interest. Mr Patten commented on weekend speculation about an early election after several polls gave the Conservatives a lead over Labour by as much as seven points.

Mr Patten made clear that the government was drawing up plans for the next general election campaign. Speaking in support of Nigel Evans, the Tory candidate, he said: "I want us to fight a positive campaign, not only in by-elections and in local elections, but in the general election whenever that may come." The contest would be fought on the government's record and on its future programme, on such issues as the health service and education reforms and the successful efforts being made to bring down and hold down inflation. "That positive campaigning starts here in the Ribbles Valley", he said.

Nigel Evans focused on the government's action to



Patten: Government already preparing plans

ease the impact of the community charge, a measure that has created much hostility in the Ribbles Valley area and that has proved a vulnerable area for the Tories despite the 19,500 majority they are defending. He said that the relief scheme would help eight in ten people in the constituency when their community charge bills arrived in April. The worst affected would be protected from the effects of the high-spending, Labour-controlled Lancashire county council, he added. A leaflet issued by the Tories puzzled some people in Clitheroe with its disclosure that two people sharing

the same house whose old rates bill was £150 would save £488 on the bill they had not yet received.

The Liberal Democrats, whose candidate Michael Carr took second place at the last election, attacked the promises of widespread relief from the charge. "People are a lot more sceptical and a lot more intelligent than simply taking this at its face value", Archie Kirkwood, campaign manager, said. The same doubt was echoed by Josie Harrington, the Labour candidate. The relief was based on some notional figure set up by the government. There would be some softening of the impact, but not enough, she said.

Martin O'Neill, Labour's defence spokesman, told a Labour party press conference that it was a sad commentary on John Major's Britain that, although the country took pride in the skill of the RAF, the people who built the Tornado aircraft at the British Aerospace works in Lancashire faced dismissal. About 3,000 jobs were to go at the company's Presto works with an even more serious knock-on effect for industry throughout the Northwest.

General election: D.C. Waddington (C), 30,136; M. Carr (SDF/All), 10,608; G. Pope (Lab), 8,781. C maj: 19,528.



Crossing frontiers: Norma Major (left) and the prime minister with President and Mrs Zhelev of Bulgaria when the two men met at 10 Downing Street for talks yesterday

Peers fear 'American' damages

By JOHN WINDER

PEERS expressed fears yesterday that damages for injuries and illness caused to patients by medical treatment might rise towards the levels experienced in America. The Lord Chancellor may ask the Law Commission to enquire into the question of medical damages.

Lady Hooper, junior health minister, said in the House of Lords that she had been discussing the possibility of an enquiry.

Earlier, she was cheered by some peers when she told Viscount Hanworth (Lib Dem) that the government was taking no action to restrict claims for cases of medical negligence and compensation in the light of the size of recent claims in some countries.

Viscount Hanworth said that at all costs they should avoid going down the road taken by the Americans where damages were so big that doctors' fees were now probably 40 per cent higher than they otherwise would have been because of the necessary insurance.

Lady Hooper said the government did not expect to see the American experience replicated in the United King-

dom because here the scale of damages was the result of careful computation of damages by a presiding judge so as to cover the precise damage and its implications.

Lord Nagent of Guildford (C) said that there was a danger that surgeons' and consultants' fees in Britain would escalate unless something serious was done to check present trends in dam-

ages. In America, about a third of doctors' fees went in insurance bonds to try to protect them. "There is a tendency in British courts for damages to escalate and the government should take effective action to check the trend."

Lady Hooper replied that the government was aware of the need to take effective action and it was being taken.

Lord Ennals, Opposition

spokesman on health, said that the present situation was a sort of lottery. Most cases did not proceed to court and that argued the case for some sort of no-fault liability system that was fair to all and did not discriminate. Lady Hooper replied that no-fault compensation was not straightforward, nor an easy option. Patients would still have to prove causation.

Prices watchdog may allow 13% electricity rises

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government's electricity supply watchdog, the Office of Electricity Regulation, may allow electricity price rises this year of up to 13 per cent which are likely to be claimed by the regional power companies in the first price-setting round since their privatisation last year.

This clear indication was given yesterday by Professor Stephen Littlechild, the office's director-general. It is likely to be seen as a considerable coup by the regional companies, and will be sharply criticised by the Labour party.

Labour party leaders pressed John Wakeham, the energy secretary, for a statement yesterday on electricity price rises after suggestions that the privatised regional companies are likely to press for consumer tariff increases this year of up to 13 per cent.

Professor Littlechild wrote to chairmen of the electricity consumers' committees, local bodies responsible for advising him on customer problems, making clear that it was possible that price increases at such a level would be within the statutory formulae that govern price-setting in the industry. He confirmed that he had not yet received any notification of proposed tariff changes from the regional companies. They have to submit their maximum proposed prices to his office by early March, 28 days before the price rises are due to come into effect, on April 1.

Because of that, he could

not say whether the suggested prices would come within the price controls. He said, however: "I should warn you that it is quite possible that price increases approaching the magnitudes mentioned in the press would be within these constraints."

He added that if the companies' licensing conditions were breached, over prices or any issue, he had powers to take legal action and "in those circumstances I should not hesitate to require the companies to reduce their price increases."

Professor Littlechild said that all his office was required to do was to ensure that the price formulae were being observed.

Leading article, page 11

Slick 'best left alone'

ANY attempt to clean up the oil slick in the Bristol Channel rather than leave it to degrade naturally would do more harm than good, Tony Baldry, environment under secretary, said in a written reply.

Mr Baldry said that the slick resulted from a 20-ton spillage from Llanwrn steelworks. There were reports of up to 100 lightly oiled birds. The slick did not appear to have harmed important wild life sites, although there might be some short-term damage.



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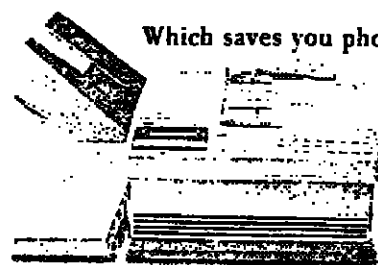
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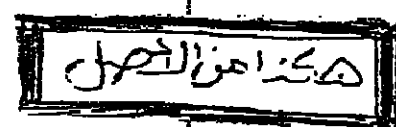
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Opening scenes of land battle are already being played out

THE allied land offensive has really already begun. The armoured and airborne divisions may not have advanced en masse across the "startline" into Kuwait. But the first phase of the ground campaign was initiated at least 72 hours ago, when hundreds of artillery pieces, from M109s to the new multiple-launch rocket systems, were moved to within range of the Iraqi positions and started firing. Minesweepers have also been deployed for the first time into the northern end of the Gulf to start clearing mines for an amphibious assault.

The reports by allied military briefers of "skirmishes" and "probing" have lulled the public into believing that the current series of artillery and helicopter-borne attacks are merely dress rehearsals for the real thing, almost like the last training exercise before battle commences. Into this so-called rehearsal period has now been thrown the last-minute revised script, written by President Saddam Hussein, in which a putative withdrawal scenario has been suggested.

In fact, this is not a rehearsal. We are now watching the opening scenes of General Norman Schwarzkopf's ground battle plan, the key element of which is the rapidly increasing presence of allied artillery close to the Kuwaiti border. The Schwarzkopf script calls for a firepower momentum which will rise to a peak of such intensity that only the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait will prevent the rest of the plan, including an armoured thrust, an amphibious assault

The momentum of allied military actions is rapidly reaching a point of no return, rendering Iraq's belated diplomacy ineffectual, Michael Evans writes

and an airborne attack, from being played out. Saddam has perhaps 48 hours or less to convince Washington that he is not just playing for time. By then the tempo of allied military operations will have reached a point of no return. Once the main assault has begun, it may be too late for diplomacy. There must have come a moment last week when Saddam realised this, which is why the statement from the Revolutionary Command Council last Friday was an important indicator of what was in the Iraqi leader's mind.

For the first time, he appeared to be saying that he did not want to face "the mother of all battles" after all. In his game plan, the land battle was to have been his *piece de resistance*, the moment when he could show the world how tough his troops were, and how determined they were to hold on to Kuwait, or the 19th province, as it is called by Baghdad. While that plan remained realistic, it was in his interests to bring the allied campaign forward as early as possible.

For the same reason it was in the allies' best interests to postpone the ground battle for as long as possible, until the odds had been changed in their favour. This is where Saddam seriously miscalculated. He never envisaged that the air campaign would go on for so long and that it would inflict so much damage. Even two weeks ago, he would have been happy to join battle. But now the odds are against him and he knows it. He has let his forces know it, too, by announcing to the world that he is ready to give up the 19th province. So why should Iraqi soldiers, cowering under the latest onslaught from across the border, lay down their lives for a piece of territory which has effectively been relinquished by their commander-in-chief?

Even a chemical or nerve gas attack on Israel may no longer seem an attractive option. If Saddam is trying to save himself from military and political defeat, it would be an act of suicide to provoke the Israelis into a massive retaliatory attack. At the beginning of the war it would have made more sense because any revenge by Israel, especially if it had taken the form of a chemical attack on Baghdad, could have persuaded Syria, Egypt and other Arab countries to join him in waging war on Israel. But Saddam clearly decided it was too great a gamble. He chose, instead, the softer option of launching ballistic missiles with conventional warheads on Israel. Now it is too late. The momentum of the allied ground campaign has gone too far. Even without the Syrian and Egyptian armoured divisions, the American, British, French, Saudi Arabian and Gulf Co-operation

Council contribution to the offensive should be sufficient to overwhelm the depleted Iraqi forces. But there is little reason to believe that either Egypt or Syria would abandon the anti-Saddam cause at this stage. One added concern for Saddam: if peace broke out tomorrow, he would still face an Israeli strike. The Israeli government has vowed that it would retaliate for the Scud attacks "at a time of its own choosing". While the belated diplomatic offensive continues, the only real sign of a genuine intention to withdraw has to come from the trenches and bunkers in Kuwait. So far, none of the radio traffic between Iraqi soldiers and their commanders, intercepted by American satellites, has hinted that there are new orders from Baghdad.

DIPLOMACY

Psychology of the souk puts allies in a quandary

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Soviet peace proposals and Iraq's insistence that it is ready to negotiate a withdrawal from Kuwait have left the West in a quandary. While both Washington and London insisted again yesterday that Iraq still attached unacceptable conditions to its offer, Soviet diplomacy made it harder to dismiss what appears to be an opening step in the tortuous process towards negotiations.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, brushed aside suggestions that the Iraqis had shown more flexibility than the West had first recognised. He told the House of Commons that Arab coalition partners had also promptly dismissed the Baghdad radio broadcast, and there was no ambiguity about the meaning of the text. The offer, he said, was no more than an attempt to divide the coalition.

But reactions to yesterday's announcement that Moscow had handed over a peace plan were more guarded. British officials refused to concede that Mr Gorbachev could have offered much beyond a bland restatement of the principles of the United Nations resolutions.

President Bush said he needed more information about the plan before responding. The White House said it was pinning its hopes on the military operations.

Although Western leaders express public confidence that the Soviet Union has not undercut the allied position, there is concern that Moscow's main interest now is in positioning itself for an advantageous role after the fighting.

If Iraq is preparing the diplomatic ground for a withdrawal, concessions would be made in Moscow rather than elsewhere. Baghdad has been disappointed by Soviet backing for the coalition, but has not lost hope of manipulating visceral Kremlin wariness at being aligned with Washington and giving the allies *carte blanche* to bomb so extensively.

Arab commentators have been dismayed by President Bush's brusque rejection of the Iraqi offer. They point out that this was only an opening gambit. The Iraqi leadership could not suddenly agree to a withdrawal without any accompanying political gain. Such a humiliating volte-face would undermine the justification for the suffering President Saddam Hussein has brought on his country.

Analysis says Iraq was looking for a sign that its opponents were ready to acknowledge its change of tack. The mention of withdrawal, the attempt to get diplomacy moving again, and the pedantic reinterpretation of the broadcast text, point to a realisation by Baghdad that concessions must be made. Saddam has been persuaded by the damage to his war machine that he cannot settle on the terms he wanted.

The Soviet Union understands this political haggling. The conventions of the souk apply more among its varied populations than in the West. The United States especially does not understand such bargaining: the American tradition is straightforward and pays little attention to face. President Bush insists that Saddam had plenty of opportunity before the war to escape from the diplomatic dead-end he entered.

All now depends on the speed of reaction on either side. If Iraq responds with substantial new proposals to the Gorbachev plan, Moscow may yet persuade the West to hold off the land battle. If the West is convinced that Iraq is shilly-shallying, it will continue the war without political restraint. Many Arabs are convinced that this is what the US has now decided to do, and that Mr Bush is showing deliberate ignorance of the conventions of the souk.

Letters, page 13

UNITED NATIONS

Britain and Iraq join verbal duel

From JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

THE continuing private meeting of the United Nations Security Council on the Gulf war has developed into something of a sparring match between Britain and Iraq. Official transcripts of the three sessions so far reveal the British and Iraqi ambassadors trading punches, sometimes in a most undiplomatic way.

Television and radio reporters are regretting that Britain was able to prevail in its struggle to have the meeting held behind closed doors.

Dr Abdul Amir al-Anbani, the Iraqi envoy, opened his remarks to the last council session on Saturday by describing the assembled ambassadors as "liars, pygmies and hypocrites", according to a transcript released yesterday. He attended the meeting to address a series of questions posed by Sir David Hannay, the British ambassador, at an earlier session.

In answer to Sir David's demand that Iraq spell out its position on immediate withdrawal from Kuwait, Dr al-Anbani tried to turn the tables on his British counterpart by calling in aid the very security council resolution Iraq has so long rejected.

Dr al-Anbani then posed his own list of questions for Britain: was Britain observing the Geneva conventions on the protection of civilians by its "indiscriminate bombing"? Why did Britain block medical shipments to Iraq even though they are exempt from sanctions? Had Britain observed a non-binding UN resolution barring attacks on nuclear facilities? Did Britain take the necessary steps to prevent the spread of radiation when it attacked Iraqi nuclear plants?

Sir David promised to answer those questions when the debate resumes today. He did, however, welcome the Iraqi ambassador's assurance that his government would respect the Geneva conventions on prisoners of war.



Table talk: Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, left, meeting President Gorbachev in Moscow yesterday to hear the outline of a peace proposal which he has taken back to Baghdad. With Mr Gorbachev are Yegor Primakov, his special envoy, second left, and Alexander Bessmertnykh, his foreign minister.

WAR IN THE GULF: DAY 33

ALLIED FORCES

More than 80,000 missiles flown since January 17. US intelligence estimates that 15 per cent of Iraq's forces in Kuwait have been killed or wounded. Allied helicopters rescued an American pilot 40 miles inside Iraq-held territory after he bailed out of his F16 fighter. US and British forces captured a 83 Iraqis in past two days.

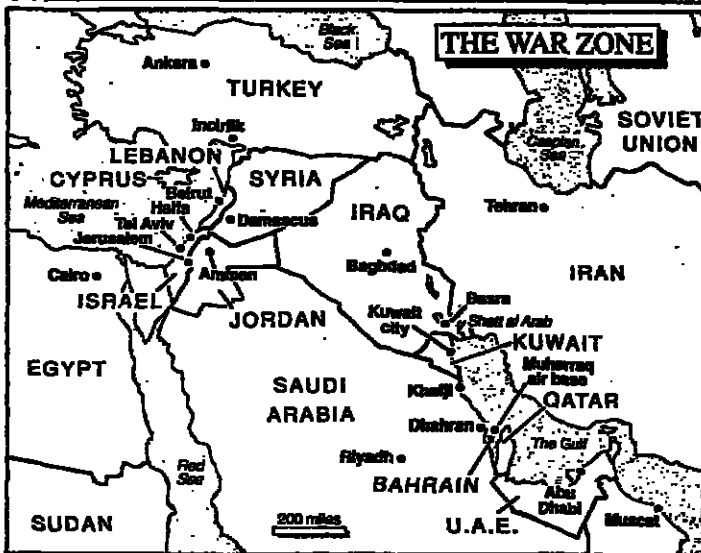
heavy casualties on frontline allied troops with batteries of field missiles. Baghdad radio claimed that four allied planes had been shot down. It reported 150 air raids on Iraq troops in past 24 hours and 25 on civilian targets. It warned allied troops that Iraq's "all-powerful weapons will explode in their faces".

ALLIED WAR AIMS

Resolution 660 of the United Nations Security Council, passed on 2 August, condemns Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and calls for an unconditional withdrawal and negotiations. Resolution 678 authorised Kuwait's allies to "use all necessary means" to uphold previous resolutions calling for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and its government's restoration. It also calls on the nations to "restore international peace and security in the area".

IRAQI FORCES

Iraq claimed its forces had inflicted



MIDDLE EAST OBSERVER

Saddam shows penchant for tearing up deals

THE only significant parallel in President Saddam Hussein's past conduct with his present offer to withdraw from Kuwait is the Algiers agreement of March 1975. After fighting Kurdish guerrillas in the north for 12 months, which took the Iraqi army to the point of collapse, Saddam met the Shah of Iran at an Opec conference in the Algerian capital and made a number of humiliating concessions to Tehran over navigational rights in the Shatt al-Arab waterway in exchange for Iran cutting off aid to the Kurds.

In September 1980, when the shah was overthrown and Iran was weakened by the Islamic revolution, Saddam announced that he had torn up the agreement with the shah because he had signed it "when Iraq was weak".

A lesser parallel had occurred in 1970, when he agreed to grant a measure of autonomy to the Kurds, allowing them to have five ministers in the Baghdad government. Then as his army grew strong with Soviet weaponry and training, he violated the agreement. Saddam expelled large numbers of Kurds from Kirkuk and settled Arabs in their place. By March

1974, he was ready to go to war with the Kurds and did so.

Halfway through the eight-year war with Iran, Saddam was again in a weak position and was prepared to strike another deal with Tehran to revive the Algiers agreement. But the new rulers in Iran had learnt their lesson and declined any mediation, including that undertaken by Olof Palme, the late prime minister of Sweden. However, Iraq's subsequent acquisition of chemical weapons and long-range artillery forced Iran to agree to a ceasefire.

Today, Saddam finds himself at the most precarious point in his career. His navy has been destroyed, his air force has been forced into hiding, his Scud missiles have brought him nothing but the contempt of the world, and two-thirds of his army, which the allies say still remains in place, is being obliterated. The possibility must now be that the estimated 500,000 Iraqi soldiers deployed in Kuwait and southern Iraq may surrender to Saudi forces and their "imperialist masters" over the next few days.

The contemplation of such a scenario

must be worrying every member of Saddam's ruling Baath party to the core. Some have reportedly gone into hiding already to escape lynch mobs. Clearly, any accommodation with Washington that would allow Saddam to keep even a fifth of his army is preferable to such a fate. The dictator can live without a "face", but he cannot live without an army.

The trouble for Saddam and the rest of the Baathists is that, given the crimes they have recently committed in full view of the world, Washington would have the greatest difficulty in coming to an accommodation with them. Such a compromise would require the immediate injection of several billion dollars into Iraq to prevent the sight of malnourished Iraqi children appearing on Western television screens over the next few months. It would also mean the free flow of Iraqi oil to the world's markets. Furthermore, a Saddam who survived the allied bombardment would become an Arab hero, and it would be only a question of time before he attempted to revive his dream of forging an Arab empire armed with nuclear weapons and long-range

missiles. Could Washington contemplate such a future?

President Bush's call on Friday to the Iraqi armed forces and people to overthrow Saddam will have increased the psychological pressure under which the Iraqi ruler must already be reeling, but it has little chance of being answered. Iraq's top soldiers are still surrounded by Baathist minders, and the opposition parties, with the exception of the Kurds in the north, have suffered so many years of repression that they exist largely in exile only.

Hopes for the fall from power of the Baath party must rest on sustaining the allied bombing of the Iraqi army and the continuation of economic sanctions. The humiliation of the army, combined with the hardships now facing the Iraqi people, are more likely to inspire a middle-ranking officer in a remote corner of the country to raise a flag of rebellion to which the rest of the population might find the courage to rally.

Hazhir Teimourian

FINANCE

Saudis forced to borrow billions

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN SAUDI ARABIA

SAUDI Arabia, the world's largest oil producer, and host to more than 500,000 allied soldiers, has been forced to borrow money for the first time in more than 30 years to help cover the spiralling war costs and falling oil revenues. Details of the loan, understood to be about \$3.6 billion (£1.9 billion) over a three-year period, have been kept secret because the issue is extremely sensitive in a conservative, Muslim state where the payment or receipt of interest is forbidden under Islamic law.

According to senior bankers in Riyadh, a group of nine banks led by the giant Morgan Guaranty in the United States arranged the loan at an interest rate of half a percentage point above the London interbank offered rate - unusually high for a loan to a government.

News of the loan, confirmed yesterday by Mohammad Ali Abulhalil, the finance and national economy minister, came as a shock to important contributors to Operation Desert Storm, such as Britain and France, which had been looking to the Saudis to meet a greater proportion of the escalating cost of the conflict. Bankers and economists said last night that emergency spending after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on August 2 had more than doubled Saudi Arabia's projected 1990 budget deficit of \$6.7 billion. For the first

three months of this year alone, the Saudis have pledged a further \$13.5 billion to America.

Last week Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, was asked to detail the Saudi contribution to the exchequer, but would not go beyond stating that all fuel bills for Britain's war machine in the Gulf were being met by Saudi Arabia.

One Western economist said: "The cost of fighting this war has risen much more than expected and has been increased by the extra \$1 billion needed to fight the Gulf oil slick at a time when oil prices are dropping. The British are 'tapping' at the till and the French are not far behind."

Total war costs are impossible to predict, but diplomats say that Saudi Arabia has already spent or pledged \$48 billion, roughly half its gross domestic product and far more than it is expected to earn from oil revenues this year. "They [the Saudis] have had a real problem coming up with cash and have been forced to find the money really quickly," another Western economist said.

The Saudi government has already been forced to borrow domestically for the past three years, raising \$9.6 billion a year from domestic banks by the issuing of government "development" bonds.

Total war, page 10

Churches call for ceasefire

Sydney - Demands for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in the Gulf war, plus the continuation of sanctions against South Africa, will be made when the World Council of Churches (WCC) ends its seventh assembly in Canberra tomorrow (Robert Cockburn writes).

Two weeks of highly charged debate, set against fierce military action in the Gulf, has produced a strong anti-war mood among the majority of 300 international church leaders attending. The council in particular wants to see the United Nations take back control of the Gulf war and never again allow individual member nations or groups to be given responsibility for the resolution of conflicts.

A 21-page draft of resolutions issued yesterday offers no justification for the allies' use of force in the Gulf. Linking all current Middle Eastern conflicts, the WCC called for their resolution at a UN-convened peace conference.

US ships mined

Washington - Iraq inflicted its first damage on US naval vessels yesterday when two ships struck mines. An American military spokesman said the cruiser Princeton was operating at half power. The helicopter landing ship Tripoli suffered some flooding.

Barrage begins

London - British artillery units have fired their first shots in anger. The guns included the new multiple-launch rocket systems, which destroyed three Iraqi tanks, three guns and three gun positions. No Iraqi counter artillery fire "fell within earshot".

Envoy goes home

Paris - Iraq's ambassador here, Abdul Razzak al-Hashimi, returned to Baghdad yesterday after the rupture of diplomatic ties with France. He said one diplomat would remain to represent Iraq's interests, but French officials could not confirm this.

India hedges bets

Delhi - Chandra Shekhar, the Indian prime minister, reversed earlier comments yesterday and said he had not banned the refuelling of Gulf-bound American aircraft "as yet". He added: "We have not stopped it, but it is not taking place."

Watches stopped

Paris - Customs officers who tightened security at French airports because of the Gulf war have as a result seized 22,174 fake Cartier watches hidden in trunks bound for Cameroon, Benin and Togo and labelled as containing sewing machines. (Reuters)

IRAQ

Saddam uses peace talks to secure home front

FROM MARIE COLVIN IN BAGHDAD AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FOR President Saddam Hussein, the peace initiative launched by Tariq Aziz, his foreign minister, has a vital secondary goal quite apart from the talks in Moscow. The proposal will help to secure his home front.

Saddam has always understood the psychology of his people. They have grown increasingly concerned at the systematic destruction of the country's infrastructure. Allied planes have bombed bridges, roads, telecommunications centres and civilian ministries.

As far as most Iraqis were concerned, the initiative last week meant that Saddam had offered to withdraw from Kuwait. Overnight, the mood on the street changed. At 3pm on Friday, after the surprise announcement on Baghdad radio, men stopped their cars, pulled out Kalashnikovs and fired into the air, thinking the war was over. A security man in front of the al-Rashid hotel emptied his pistol into the air.

But Washington's summary rejection of the offer convinced many Iraqis that the

Americans wanted nothing less than the destruction of Iraq, and Kuwait was just a ruse to start the war.

In Saluja, a poor town 30 miles from Baghdad, where the main street was bombed last Wednesday during a British air strike, sentiment was strong. "The Americans are liars," said Majid Nouman, a shopkeeper aged 20, sorting through the rubble of his clothing store. "Now it is clear the Americans don't want to liberate Kuwait. They want to destroy Iraq. What choice do we have but to fight to the last drop of our blood?"

In the town, there was no evidence that American allegations of Iraqi officials damaging buildings were true; the main market street appeared to have been the target of a missile, as the residents said. Mr Nouman said that the planes came when the market was at its most crowded. People were buying fresh vegetables while traders hawked the new necessities of life: batteries, paraffin lamps and candles. One missile hit the al-Wada bridge first, a second then crashed into the market.

"I heard the voice of the planes, then I saw an explosion and heat pushed me inside my shop," Mr Nouman said. "When I came out, bodies covered with blood were all over the streets." Town officials estimate about 50 people died in the attack.

In an uncensored report from Amman after leaving Baghdad, Alan Little, the BBC's correspondent, reported that there is a strong desire among the civilian population to end the war. He told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme that the announcement of the peace plan brought scenes of unrestrained "joy and delight" to Baghdad residents.

He said: "There were some women in our hotel, some catering and cleaning staff who bonded down the stairs singing and shouting and I think they were the most telling, most revealing few minutes that I have seen at any time in Iraq. At that time, people thought that war was over and the end of the war had been occasioned by an unconditional withdrawal."

"Now if the ordinary people of Iraq are expressing delight at an unconditional withdrawal, I think that says something about the underlying feeling of the people. For a moment, it was as though the curtain was drawn back and we saw what lies beyond that kind of publicly stated hostility to the Americans. There was delight at the idea that the war was coming to an end, delight at the idea that Iraq would withdraw from Kuwait," he said.

● **NICOSIA:** Allied aircraft are dropping leaflets on southern Iraqi cities, urging residents to leave their homes, the Iranian news agency, Iran, said yesterday. It reported that the leaflets, some of which blew to Iranian border cities, bore pictures of a rocket and people fleeing bombardment with an Arabic-language warning that residents should leave to avoid being hit. (Reuters)

(The report by Marie Colvin was compiled under Iraqi censorship)



ROYAL AIR FORCE

Faulty bomb fell on Iraqi town

FROM LIN JENKINS IN THE GULF

A BOMB malfunction, rather than the failure of the laser-guided bombing system used by Tornados and Buccaneers in tandem, caused the bombing of the market town of Fallujah, in which Iraq said up to 130 people died, an RAF detachment commander said.

Group Captain David Henderson expressed regret about any civilian casualties when the bomb malfunctioned and missed its target, a bridge on a main supply line.

"If, as reported by the Iraqis, that caused civilian casualties we deeply regret that. As far as we were concerned the bridge was a legitimate military target and so the line of attack was chosen so as to avoid any possible collateral damage or civilian casualties in the town, and unfortunately it looks as though, despite our best efforts, bombs did land in the town. If a bomb malfunctioned then it will go astray," he said.



Henderson: deep regrets for civilian casualties

While civilian deaths were inevitable in war, Group Captain Henderson did not believe that the publicity about these incidents was hampering operations as it had done in Vietnam. "The technology since the Vietnam war has taken such a quantum leap forward that we are now able to attack targets with great accuracy," he said.

"If you look at the thousands of sorties we have flown over Iraq and look at the reported incidents, even from Iraq... there have not been that many reports of collateral damage or civilian casualties caused by allied bombing. You should also remember the atrocities Iraq committed against Iran with chemical warfare and against its own countrymen, the Kurds."

Morale at the largest RAF base in the Gulf remained high, despite the loss of four Tornados and the Fallujah incident. "It has had no effect whatsoever because our aim has always been to avoid collateral damage," the group captain said. When targets appeared to present a high risk of civilian loss of life, plans were altered to minimise that risk.

(This report is subject to allied military reporting restrictions)

MEDIA

Paris TV journalists boycott French troops

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN PARIS

FRENCH television crews in the Gulf began a boycott of coverage of French soldiers in Saudi Arabia yesterday after authorities refused to allow them to film units expected to participate in the allied ground offensive.

The war correspondents and technicians from France's four main channels, TF1, Antenne 2, FR3 and La Cinq, said they had decided on the protest after the army's public relations service refused to allow a pool crew to work with the Foreign Legion and other forward units.

The army proposed instead that a crew from its own cinema and photography establishment shoot the only footage available of the French in action. Just how much action by French forces there will be to film remains to be seen. French air force pilots in Saudi Arabia have seen so little fighting that they have asked to be transferred from their desert base at al-Ahsa to work alongside British and American airmen — presumably relinquishing French command — at the main allied base at Dhahran further north.

Television authorities were outraged at the restriction. "One has never seen anything like this," a spokesman for the private TF1 channel said yesterday.

"The people and the army cinema and photography establishment are under military orders. Our journalists would find themselves with footage stamped by the army while American crews continue to work with their own cameramen."

The television authorities said: "The military authorities have opposed the presence in the advanced fighting units, of a journalist cameraman and a sound man."

Frustration among television journalists was only heightened when General Raymond Germanos, the head of the army information service, declared that they would have to wait to see how a pool for the written press worked out. "What is happening now is designed to see if it can be extended," the former Foreign Legionnaire said vaguely. The general has been lampooned in the press for his tight-lipped briefings in Paris that give away little about the activities of the 10,000-strong

force stationed in Saudi Arabia.

The state-run Antenne 2 stepped up the pressure yesterday by showing lengthy footage of American marines in action in Normandy during the second world war.

Pierre Joxe, the defence minister, was taking advice on the matter yesterday. Diplomats speculated the restriction was intended to prevent Arab immigrants in France and the populations in North Africa, where French television is received by satellite, from becoming agitated by battlefield scenes.

French officers yesterday gave a military briefing in English in what appeared to be a desperate attempt to attract more coverage from Anglo-Saxon correspondents. Even

the French reporters were obliged to ask their questions in halting English.

Other foreign journalists, furious at being left out of combat coverage of the Gulf war, threatened yesterday to go to the front on their own. They have demanded places in military-escorted trips to the front lines hitherto almost exclusively reserved for American and British reporters.

If they are not given more access to the fighting within two days, they may move north en masse, challenging Saudi Arabian and American military authorities who largely govern coverage of the war. "We are claiming our right to free information," said Perry Kretz, a correspondent for the German Stern magazine.

ROYAL NAVY

Cook's tour is a tough challenge

FROM JAMIE DETTMER ON BOARD HMS LONDON

WHO would be a cook on one of Her Majesty's warships? Trying to satisfy the hunger and taste-buds of 300 men who have been at sea for six weeks without a break is no mean task, so great a challenge, indeed, that most sensible people might well prefer to avoid it.

Recently I was rash enough to mention in an article that some people on board the Type-22 frigate HMS London were complaining about the food. Retribution came in the shape of a navy cook, Petty Officer Stuart Speck, fortunately armed only with a complaint rather than any more lethal weapon. "What about our morale?" he demanded, leaping to the defence of his fellow cooks. "No one thinks of that. We always get it in the neck."

"You're as good as your last meal, Jack" — the average British sailor — "doesn't remember a meal he enjoyed a few days ago. You're open to criticism all the time and you frequently get some verbal. There are a couple of hundred people here who reckon they can do your job better."

"Jackspeak", a language in itself which to the civilian seems impenetrable at first, can run riot when it comes to food. Baked beans become whistle berries, kippers are Spithead pheasants, a heavy sponge can be referred to as figgyduff, while baby's head is steak and kidney pudding.

According to the cooks (cabbage mechanics in Jackspeak), food has a bearing on morale. Attitudes to the galley and what it serves up can also reflect how ratings are feeling generally.

"In the past two weeks there have been one or two problems because our departure date for Britain has been put back," said Petty Officer Speck. "The matelot is a funny animal. He has to have a date to aim for, a date when he will be on leave. If someone takes that date away, he gets miserable." HMS London's departure date was put back because of operational demands and, according to Petty Officer Speck, "in the past two weeks we have taken the brunt of it on the counter".

(This report is subject to allied military reporting restrictions)

KUWAIT

Plea for air raid caution

FROM REUTERS IN CAIRO

EXILED Kuwaitis in contact with their occupied homeland appealed to the allies to be more careful after a bombing raid knocked out water and electricity services in much of the emirate, apparently by mistake.

They said the situation had deteriorated sharply and Iraqi troops continued to arrest and execute their countrymen.

"There is almost total disorder," said a Kuwaiti by telephone from another Gulf country. "They say police stations are full of Kuwaitis and that many are being tortured."

According to Kuwaitis, allied air raids hit a transformer station that supplied power to the city and to a desalination plant in the Doha district west of Kuwait City. Electricity and water were cut and had only been partially restored.

The Kuwaitis said the allied raid on the station seemed to have been unintentional. Despite four weeks of bombing, water and electricity in Kuwait had been operating normally.

In Baghdad, by contrast, water, electricity and telephone services were cut early in the allied campaign.

"The people inside are appealing to the allies to be a bit more choosy. It is causing a lot of suffering," one Kuwaiti exile said. He added that members of 65 Kuwaitis who were executed by the Iraqis last week and were getting reports of more recent executions.

The source also reported a string of explosions in the Burgan oil field which was set off by the Iraqis.

Ugly Warthog tips battle odds

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON AT AN AMERICAN AIR BASE IN SAUDI ARABIA

THERE is very little to please the eye about the American A10 warplane, commonly known as "the Warthog". It looks as if it is made up of spare parts, decidedly ungainly alongside sleek fighters such as the F16.

The impression is strengthened when the thing takes off at a fraction of its speed. But beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and for the troops now massing for a possible ground assault there is no more wonderful sight than that of a Warthog waddling off on another mission with its astonishing armoury of rockets, bombs and a seven-barrelled cannon in its snout.

As tank- and bunker-busters, destroyers of military positions and convoys, or simply roaming the planes, have already gained a large fan club. To judge by accounts from Iraqi deserters, it is also dreaded on the other side, not least because A10s can "loiter" above target zones for up to 90 minutes.

The Warthog pilots love them for their ability to soak

up punishment from ground fire that would knock more sophisticated allied planes out of the skies. With slight exaggeration, they say you can stitch it with bullets from one end to the other and it will still lumber home. The pilots fly largely encased in an immensely strong titanium cage, safe against all but the heaviest anti-aircraft fire.

The day we were there, bad

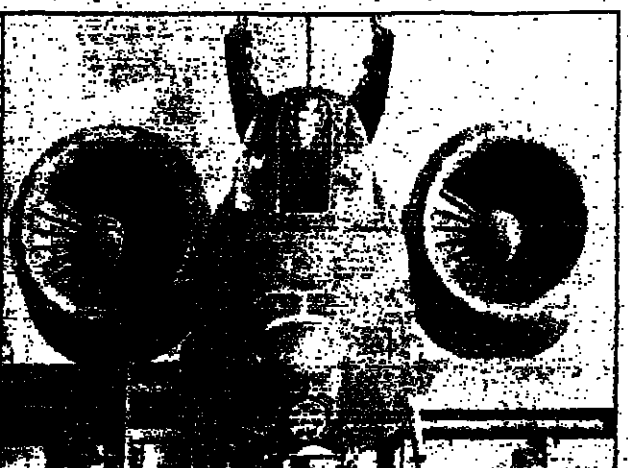
weather had grounded the A10s. Four F16s took off as we drove up, the bright orange glow of their after-burners piercing the mist. It was a welcome break for the A10 teams, after days of three, sometimes four, combat missions. On a good trip, the planes are turned round in little more than 15 minutes.

To an outsider, the relaxed, soft-spoken men who fly the

Warthogs seemed rather younger than their RAF counterparts on Gulf combat duty. For all the talk of "turkey shoots" when A10s have fallen upon vast convoys in open country, these pilots were visibly uneasy about discussing the devastation they had been inflicting. "It is the job we signed up for and there's nothing gained by thinking of the guys you are hitting down there," one said.

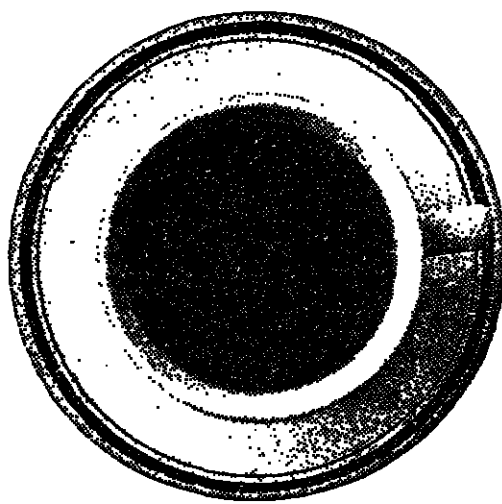
They were much happier discussing their cherished "hogs", how this one had lost a chunk of wing, that one a rudder, and kept on flying. This aircraft had been for the chop, its production discontinued five years ago. Yet, without the Warthogs over here, the grinding down of President Saddam Hussein's vast armies of tanks and artillery pieces would hardly have been possible.

What is more, if such an assault is launched, the A10s will be in their element as close-support aircraft, hammering Iraqi positions ahead of the advancing troops.

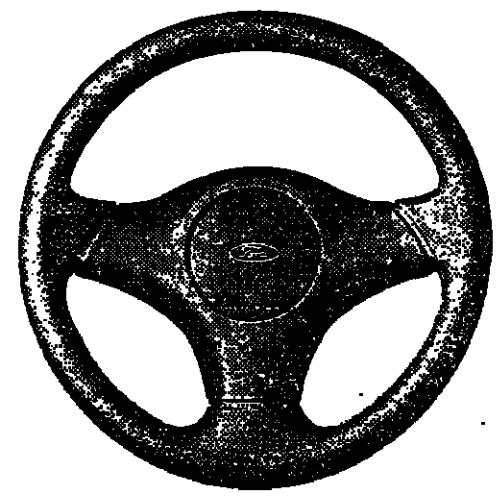


Beauty of the beast: the A10, feared by Iraqi troops

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Soviet troops use tanks to take Georgian militia base

FROM REUTERS IN MOSCOW

SOVIET forces, backed by tanks and armoured vehicles, shot their way into an unofficial Georgian militia base and captured it early yesterday, local journalists and politicians said.

It was the first known instance of Soviet military intervention against the Mkhedroni, a well-armed vigilante group formed two years ago on a growing wave of nationalist sentiment in the southern republic. A journalist in Tbilisi, the capital of the southern republic, said: "There was shooting and they captured the base. Three (Mkhedroni) people were wounded and the military took them away - it is not known where." The attackers, wearing masks, stormed the base near Tbilisi in three tanks and ten armoured vehicles, he added.

Georgians had voiced fears in recent weeks that their nationalist challenge to the Kremlin's au-

thority could be met with armed Soviet intervention as in the Baltic republics of Lithuania and Latvia last month.

Valerian Advadze, a Georgian member of the Supreme Soviet, said: "There was fighting and there are wounded. The nationalists had three machineguns seized. Nobody is being allowed in and tanks have blocked the road."

Journalists said that 30 militiamen were in the base at the time of the raid. One reporter said all 30 were arrested. They added that two members of the Soviet forces were wounded, one seriously.

The Mkhedroni is one of a number of unofficial militia groups which have sprung up in the southern Soviet republics in open defiance of President Gorbachev. It describes itself as a trouble-shooting force dedicated to keeping the peace. Its leader, Djaba Iosseliani, aged 64, is a one-time bank robber. A greying man with a soldierly bearing, he said in a recent interview that he could raise 6,000 men within eight hours. But Georgia's nationalist leaders oppose the Mkhedroni, calling it a destabilising group armed by the Kremlin in order to sow trouble.

The activities of the Mkhedroni, which supports a coalition against Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the fiercely nationalist president of Georgia, while backing Georgian independence, have injected a new explosive ingredient into a volatile political scene.

President Gamsakhurdia has spearheaded a drive for independence from the Soviet Union which has brought Georgia into open confrontation with the Kremlin. Tension has been further fuelled by vicious mud-slinging among pro- and anti-Gamsakhurdia parties, while a rising tide of Georgian nationalism has spread fear through the republic's ethnic minorities.

Mr Gamsakhurdia said of the militia: "They are gangsters, drug-users. They carry out bank robberies and the like."

Mr Iosseliani said in the interview: "In 200 years Georgia never had its own army. Now we have decided to form our own." His calling card, printed in English, describes him as a doctor of philological sciences. But he admits to having spent 15 years in Siberian jails up to the mid-1960s for armed robbery in Russia. "I was young then," he said.

Visitors to his well-furnished, seventh-floor flat in Tbilisi are shown a video recording of a Mkhedroni training camp at which young men, in civilian clothes, gather outdoors for a pep talk from Mr Iosseliani. Another shows Mkhedroni loyalists marching through the streets of Tbilisi under a light-blue flag bearing the emblem of Saint George.

Mr Iosseliani said his men, who carry medals bearing their name and blood group, have already carried out military operations in tense parts of the republic where, he claims, they have defused tensions between Georgians and minority groups.

"We train them in how to react in an earthquake, or in a fire, how to use weapons, and in humanitarian work. Ours is a sort of peace corps," he said. But he was vague about the circumstances in which they used their weapons, adding: "We have no difficulty buying guns. We can get them privately, pistols, automatics, rifles. But we do not have heavy weapons."

Mr Iosseliani, describing himself as a democrat, said he had sent a telegram to President Bush offering 100 of his men as volunteers for the allied Gulf force.

Kremlin moves to outflank poll rebels

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

WITH less than a month to go before the referendum on the future of the Soviet Union, the Kremlin has outlined measures to counter growing resistance to the project. They include provisions for individual districts and workplaces to designate themselves constituencies and would allow people to vote outside their home district without appearing on the electoral register. They also provide for the result to be calculated nationally rather than on a republic-by-republic basis.

The proposed measures reflect the concern of leadership that the referendum, scheduled for March 17, may not produce the overwhelming vote in favour of a "renewed Soviet Union" that had been expected. At least six republics, including the three Baltic republics, have said they will



Velitsin: questions on land sales and presidency

not take part, and the Kremlin appears concerned that the mood of the country will not guarantee an overwhelming "yes" vote.

Yesterday Soviet parliamentary deputies were presented with a draft resolution containing the new provisions and condemning attempts to "block the referendum", "change the wording" or "add other questions of republic or local significance". It said that to deprive someone of the right to vote in the referendum was "a violation of the Soviet constitution". The resolution stipulates that voters must be presented with only one, all-union, ballot paper, containing the question: "Do you approve of the preservation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as a renewed federation of equal sovereign republics in which the rights and freedom of citizens of all nationalities will be fully guaranteed?"

This clause appears to be directed specifically against plans by the Russian Federation, led by Boris Yeltsin, to add two extra questions: one on the desirability of having a directly elected executive president, and the other on private land sales.

The draft resolution states that other republic-level plebiscites do not constitute a reason for not holding this the March 17 referendum. This is a reference to the referendum held in Lithuania on February 9 and those planned for March 3 in Latvia and Estonia.

The most ominous provision states that in republics or areas where the authorities are not holding the referendum, local councils, "social organisations" and work collectives are entitled to make their own arrangements.

The right to vote can be extended to the families of members of a work collective or other group, and "anyone else who is deprived of the right to vote where they live".



Campaign trail: Bangladesh Nationalist activists trying to raise support for a general election candidate a week tomorrow as their horse-drawn carriage passes in front of parliament in Dhaka yesterday. Meanwhile, police charged Hossain Ershad, the former president, with illegally acquiring property worth £300,000

'Attempt to kill Mandela defendant'

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

ONE of the missing accused in the trial of Winnie Mandela claims that an attempt was made to murder him before the hearing began, a Johannesburg newspaper reported yesterday.

The *Star* said it was told by reliable but unidentified sources that Katiza Cebekulu, aged 22, had told people he had been attacked by three other missing accused when they realised he intended standing trial.

Warrants have been issued for the arrest of Mr Cebekulu, Mpho Gift Mabeane, aged 19, Sibiso Brian Mabeane, aged 19, and a 17-year-old youth. They are accused with Mrs Mandela and three others, who have pleaded not guilty, of kidnapping and serious assault, but were reported missing when the trial began in the supreme court in Johannesburg on February 4.

Last week, the trial was adjourned until March 6 after two key state witnesses refused to give evidence after the alleged abduction of a third from a Methodist church manse in Soweto, outside Johannesburg. Mr Cebekulu is reported to have been near the court building after the trial began.

The newspaper reported that people who saw Mr Cebekulu before the trial said he had sores on his head and an injured right arm. He told them that boiling water was thrown at him and that he was shot near the elbow. He claimed he had been treated in a Soweto hospital but had concealed his identity.

The newspaper quoted one of its informants as saying: "I am worried about him and feel that if something is published it might help. No one knows where he is and it seems he is just running."

Accord rejected: The Pan Africanist Congress yesterday rejected a peace accord between the African National Congress and the government, saying: "The bullet cannot be abandoned." Benny Alexander, the secretary-general, said: "We remain committed to the intensification of the armed struggle." (Reuters)

Central Europe sides with West on force reductions

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

THE states of Central Europe, demonstrating their newfound independence from Moscow in foreign and defence policy, are siding with Nato against the Soviet Union in demanding far play at the Vienna talks on conventional force reductions.

The treaty on conventional forces in Europe, signed by 22 countries last November, significantly pared down the armies and air forces between the Atlantic and the Urals. But on Sunday an important deadline passed: the 90th day after the treaty was signed was regarded as the last day that data on tanks and other weaponry could be revised. Moscow submitted some new figures last week but it is already plain that these do not really answer the doubts of the West. It is still uncertain whether the treaty, hailed as a sign of the new, more peaceful and open European order last autumn, will ever be ratified.

Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria are furious with Moscow and sense that the problems with the treaty may stem from foot-dragging by the Soviet army. Nato's original goal in the negotiations was to reduce the threat of a surprise attack by the Warsaw Pact on Western Europe, and to make it more difficult for Moscow to intervene militarily in reformist East European states.

The disintegration of the Warsaw Pact, and Soviet troop withdrawals from Eastern Europe, have already made a surprise attack on the West extremely unlikely. But the treaty, with its important verification clauses, was still important as a guarantor of security for the new eastern democracies. The treaty is an agreement between two "groups of state parties", that is between members of Nato and the Warsaw Pact. But the post-communist states have broken away from any national alignment of blocs and are joining with the West to put the squeeze on Moscow.

Western diplomats say that their intelligence indicates a discrepancy between the number of units that Moscow agreed to withdraw and the number of units (presumably pinpointed by satellite) that are still in place. The new data submissions by Moscow

partly answer these charges, but they do not tackle the so-called redesignation problem - the recent transfer of three armoured divisions to Soviet naval and coastal defence units. Since naval forces are excluded from the treaty the suspicion is that the Soviet Union is trying to cheat, tucking away about a thousand extra tanks. Many of these "redesignated" tanks are in the Baltic military district, which is cause for alarm in neighbouring Poland.

Although the Vienna talks still give the appearance of being a numbers game, they have changed qualitatively and are more about political salesmanship. It has been clear for some time that the Soviet general staff was unhappy about the way the negotiations were being handled by Eduard Shevardnadze, the then Soviet foreign minister. In particular the generals wanted the Kiev military district to be granted special

protection. With Mr Shevardnadze out of power, the Soviet general staff may be trying to claw back further advantages.

James Baker, the American Secretary of State, has already recommended a delay in submitting the treaty to the senate for approval. Ratification will prove difficult in the general air of suspicion that has greeted the Vienna talks over the past few weeks. Yet, without ratification, the West cannot begin to verify Soviet compliance.

Such a limbo has occurred before in arms negotiations. But the present deadlock hurts Eastern Europe in particular. The Soviet repression in Lithuania has injected considerable uncertainty in the region. At the very least this mood is scaring away Western investment. The conventional forces treaty would have offered a useful restraint on the Soviet army and its foreign policy ambitions.

UK agrees to give EC new defence policy role

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN has agreed to a major revision of European defence arrangements which will create a new European Community council within Nato. The EC should direct the Western European Union (WEU), the government has agreed in principle.

The nine-country union has functioned as little more than a talking shop for the European members of Nato since it was founded in 1948. According to a draft document agreed by Britain, the union should now follow guidelines to be set by European Community ministers.

The WEU's council of foreign and defence ministers is due to meet in Paris on Friday to finalise the plan, which is still opposed by The Netherlands. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, will set out the government's thinking on the future relationship between Nato, the WEU and the EC in a speech in Luxembourg tonight.

Europe's defence arrangements

have been under discussion since the fall of the Berlin Wall and subsequent unification of Germany. The invasion of Kuwait highlighted the problems of co-ordinating Western military forces outside the traditional Nato area of Europe and its surrounding seas. Britain has until now been cautious about tying the WEU to the EC and it is unlikely that such a plan would have been approved by Margaret Thatcher.

The first formula which will determine how European Community authority will be exercised over the union has not been settled. The WEU meeting in Paris will debate a document which is due to be sent to the negotiators who are overhauling the EC's foreign policy machinery. Governments have reached broad agreement that almost all foreign policy positions must continue to be reached unanimously and individual countries should be free to pursue their own interests.

WARSAW NOTEBOOK by Roger Boyes

Hint of a thaw in the Havel-Walesa cold war

Vaclav Havel and Lech Walesa, the two towering figures of post-communist Central Europe, have declared an armed truce, and not before time. For more than a year their personal rivalry has made for some uneasiness in the already strained relationship between Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Now both presidents are on their best behaviour and are busily briefing journalists about their deep mutual respect and the personal, as well as political, success of last Friday's summit between Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary. Nobody believes a word of it. Their animosity goes back at least to January 1990, when the newly elected President Havel paid his first visit to Warsaw. It was a 24-hour trip and there was no time to fly to Gdansk.

Mr Walesa, then still a revolutionary hero without portfolio, was offended. Tadeusz Mazowiecki, then prime minister, rang him three times to persuade the Solidarity chief to leave Gdansk to meet President Havel. Bronislaw Geremek, the head of the Solidarity caucus, tried. The editor Adam Michnik tried. All to no avail. If President Havel was not prepared to pay tribute to the birthplace of Solidarity then there would be no meeting.

This incident, the first of many, is

described in detail in a book to be published next week by Jaroslav Kurski, Mr Walesa's former spokesman.

The Solidarity chairman felt himself snubbed by the Czechoslovak president and by the Warsaw political elite. There are strong ties between the former dissidents around President Havel and the Warsaw dissidents grouped around Mr Mazowiecki.

Partly out of pique at the international publicity for President Havel, Mr Walesa decided to run for the Polish presidency. His was a much harder campaign. Mr Kurski quotes Mr Walesa grumbling: "Now they are applauding Havel but soon they will start to boo him because our car (the economy) has already stopped, while the Czech car is still in reverse." President Havel's popularity would melt as soon as free-market policies took hold.

Next it was Prague's turn to be snubbed. Mr Walesa gave his presidential inauguration speech on December 22 last year and emphasised the need for good relations with the neighbours, Germany and the Soviet republics. No mention of Czechoslovakia. After the Soviet intervention in Lithuania,

President Havel wanted to ring President Walesa to work out a common stance. Nobody could find a phone number for Mr Walesa. Aides had the old number of the communist central committee, a number for the government, but not for the presidential palace. Somebody remembered that a provocative Polish weekly, *Nie*, had published Mr Walesa's bedroom extension number (with exhortations to ring him after midnight and congratulate him on his election win). But this number was not answered.

Some of this friction is due to the two countries' tangled history. Never easy, the relationship was soured by communism and in particular the Soviet Union, which played the imperial politics of "divide and rule". A Polish presidential aide confesses: "We know far too little about Czechoslovakia, much less than we know about America or Britain."

The result, after the break-up of communism, has been a competitive relationship. Prague, Warsaw and Budapest jostle for West European and American investment. Mr Havel's first state visit was to Germany, not Poland. Of the two, though, it is President Walesa who has shown a better grasp of day-to-day foreign policy decision-making. While

Mr Havel favours a policy of gestures towards the Soviet Union, Mr Walesa senses trouble ahead from the increasingly politicised Soviet army.

"It's not a good time to anger the bear," Mr Walesa told the Czechoslovak leader when he eventually managed to get through to Warsaw. The advice was sound, but it probably did little to improve the relations between these two most prickly of statesmen.



Havel 1990 "snub" for Walesa marked cooling of relations

50 die in Sri Lanka attack by guerrillas

Columbo - Forty-five Sri Lankan soldiers, including two lieutenants, and five Tamil rebels were killed by guerrillas in the island's Northern Province (Vijitha Yapa writes). Military sources said that the ambush occurred at Kumbachchi in Vavuniya district when the soldiers were returning to their camp.

Military sources said some of the ten survivors reported that when they were walking back to the camp, mines were set off by the guerrillas. The rebels had then opened fire on the soldiers. Eight of the survivors were reported to be in a serious condition.

Judge elected

Prata - Antonio Mascarenhas Monteiro, a former supreme court judge, celebrated a decisive victory in Cape Verde's first presidential elections, which ended 15 years of one-party rule. Only 25 per cent of the 165,000 voters picked President Pereira, who has ruled the tiny African archipelago since independence from Portugal in 1975. (AP)

Belgrade strike

Belgrade - About 13,000 Yugoslav metal workers went on strike in the largest show of labour discontent with the communist government of Serbia since the December elections. "We are demanding payment of guaranteed salaries," said Dobrivoje Lazarevic, a strike committee member. He said workers had not been paid since December. (AP)

Mafiosi freed

Palermo - An appeals court released 28 convicted mafia members because of an administrative blunder. The move followed a controversial ruling last week by the supreme court in Rome which said the mafiosi had to be freed because the legal limit of pre-trial detention between conviction and appeal trial had expired. It set conditions for their future residence and restricted their movements. (Reuters)

Death toll rises

Bangkok - The death toll from the worst road disaster in Thailand rose to 171 and newspapers suggested that the victims had themselves to blame. "In the past 24 hours we have found about 40 bodies - in houses, in trees," police said in the southern province of Phang-nga. The accident occurred when hundreds of people crowded around a lorry that had turned over with a load of dynamite. (Reuters)

Minister moves

Tunis - Tunisia moved Abdelhak Kallal, the defence minister, to the interior ministry, after masked men set on fire two guards and stabbed two other people at a local office of the ruling political party. The government said that about 30 Islamic extremists had attacked two security guards. (Reuters)

Flood disaster

Sydney - More than half of the Australian state of Queensland was declared a flood disaster area after heavy rains in the past few days, adding to problems created by Cyclone Joy in December. Wayne Goss, the state premier, declared that 57 zones were disaster areas, adding 18 more to the list. A spokesman said that more areas may be affected in the next few days. (Reuters)

1991/02/19

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Michael Howard

Think hard on total war

Saddam Hussein's "peace offer" last week contained terms that were clearly unacceptable, and President Bush predictably refused to accept it. The White House spokesman said that it contained nothing new, and the president himself dismissed it as "a cruel hoax". But it did contain something new: it raised for the first time the possibility of an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, and Mr Gorbachev will not be alone in seeing it as the possible opening of a bargaining process that might end with Kuwait's peaceful liberation.

The basic problem is whether this is simply a ploy to divide the allies, or an offer worthy of quiet exploration. Certainly the coalition is easily divisible, and may become more so as the war goes on. For more Americans, and probably Mr Bush himself, the conflict has become personalised. It is a struggle to destroy Saddam, and the liberation of Kuwait is only a means to that end. The Americans are fighting, in Clausewitzian terms, a total war of overthrow. The only satisfactory outcome for them, as in all America's successful wars, is unconditional surrender.

But that is not the objective set out in the resolutions of the United Nations, nor is it endorsed even by America's closest ally, Britain. There is good reason to believe that no stable settlement can be reached in the Middle East while Saddam remains in power, or even while Iraq retains a military capability, but eliminating them is not a goal universally shared.

Formally we are fighting, under UN auspices, a war limited to winning the restoration of the legitimate government of Kuwait and compensation of its rulers and people for the damage inflicted on them. For those who take this view, extending those goals would not only transcend the bounds legitimised by the UN but create a new regional instability. To keep the war limited and build a golden bridge for our enemy to retreat would, according to this view, be not only just, but prudent.

Unfortunately the military techniques that western democracies have developed in the 20th century have made such limited wars — except under such rare conditions as the Falklands campaign — almost impossible. Ever since the first world war, our primary concern has been to minimise our own casualties by using superior technology and industrial power to inflict crushing losses on our opponents — including their non-combatant populations.

There is a horrible military logic about this. In the first place, the second world war showed that one cannot fight effectively without destroying enemy air power over the battlefield, which can best be done by striking not only at his air bases but at the industrial sources. The enemy's capacity for control, communications and reinforcements of forces in the field must also be crippled, which means bombing roads, bridges, rail centres and fuel supplies. Even with "smart bombs", military targets cannot always be singled out while leaving the rest of the community

intact. Military "surgery" is still at the level of its medical counterpart in the 18th century.

One need not target civilians in modern industrial communities to make their lives barely endurable: it can be done as effectively by destroying such legitimate military targets as power stations and communications networks. Whatever our leaders may say, we are making war not only on Saddam and his army, but also on the Iraqi people. It is, unfortunately, the only way we know to destroy Iraqi military power at a cost acceptable to our own electorates.

This western way of warfare has, however, grave political and ethical costs, and they cannot all be loaded on the shoulders of Saddam Hussein. Ethically there is a *ius in bello* as well as a *ius ad bellum*, and one of the principles of the "just war" is that one should not in the course of it inflict greater damage than that one is concerned to avenge.

Politically, the costs are more direct. The destruction of the Baghdad air-raid shelter last week may have been a tragic accident, but it was an accident waiting to happen, and unless we are very fortunate there will be more. After a month of almost uninterrupted bombing, we may justifiably congratulate ourselves on the low level of civilian casualties, but this is not how it appears to most of the Islamic world.

"The western way of warfare has grave political and ethical costs: not all can be loaded on Saddam's shoulders"

Those tragic pictures of Iraqi men and women seeking their dead children amid the rubble will make the same world impact as those of the blazing, screaming little girl in Vietnam once did. There is little doubt that the Iraqi army did horrible things in Kuwait, but the media, alas, did not record them. It is we who are now in the pillory, and demands for the trial of Saddam as a war criminal will be met in many quarters with an embarrassing *tu quoque*.

In wartime, each side quickly demonises the other, seeing in its adversary the embodiment of evil forces with whom no deal is possible. The demand that Saddam should be tried for war crimes has ugly echoes of the cries of "Hang the Kaiser" during the first world war.

It is one of the weaknesses of democracies that their governments cannot distance themselves from this process: they may be able to control their military, but they cannot control the electorates that keep them in power, and all too often they are more concerned to follow public emotions than to manage them.

We must hope that Mr Bush's outright rejection of Saddam's terms was based on cool, informed reflection rather than personal passion or calculations of domestic political support. We must hope also that if he is set on a war of total overthrow, he and his allied partners have some idea about what is going to happen afterwards. Otherwise the verdict of historians on our conduct of the war will be Tacitean rather than Clausewitzian: they created a desert, and they called it peace.

Sir Michael Howard is professor of modern history at Yale University.

Public duty must beat the bombers

The police do their best, writes Brian Hilliard, but face a near-impossible task if they follow up every lead

difficulty in deciding how far that investigation must be carried. Can they afford to set an arbitrary deadline of perhaps, midnight on Sunday, and appeal for everyone who passed through Victoria and Paddington after that time to contact them? Can they limit the enquiry to travellers in the vicinity of specific platforms? If there is forensic evidence of a briefcase, a duffel bag, or a milk carton being the bomb container, do they widen the enquiry and appeal for witnesses who might have seen someone in possession of such an item?

How many witnesses might reply to the bureaux set up at the stations, or to the broadcast and newspaper appeals? Having been contacted by at least 5,000, how long will it be before sufficient officers are briefed in the objectives of the operation to interview them effectively, in many different parts of the country?

Computer systems are available to deal with the information when it is obtained, but only a wholly inexperienced optimist would expect the investigation to reveal the exact circumstances of the plant-

ing of the bomb and a worthwhile description of the bomber. What is really going on in this part of the investigation is a massive reassurance exercise to show that the police are acting decisively, and an equally extensive public relations exercise to recruit the public to assist the investigation. And the more successful this is, the fewer police will be left to deal with normal security.

Suppose there is an emergency call about an abandoned briefcase at Oxford Circus tube station. The station is cleared and traffic rerouted. Perhaps 100 police officers are needed for this operation alone. Repeat that four times in a week in central London, and public concern turns to public discontent. Staff and commuters are no longer so keen to view a lonely suitcase as a possible danger.

With only a few bomb disposal experts available — many are serving in the Gulf — it will usually take an hour to clear a suspect package. In areas where experience suggests a bomb is unlikely, a road, a factory or school can stay

closed for half a day. A month after the first fatality, indifference will have replaced suspicion, and the bomber is free to move again.

As the main body of the enquiry is seen to be pushing steadily forward, the more important legs are working furiously out of sight. Potential informants, political and criminal, are pursued, cajoled, bribed and threatened. Because any extra police activity inhibits their projects, criminals give all the help they can just to get the police away from the area.

Political informers can be just as useful in providing details of rival factions. Known IRA sympathisers are visited by Special Branch officers. Other suspects against whom no action can be taken are put under obvious and semi-harassing surveillance. Further suspects, who would not normally merit so much attention, may be detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act in the hope that panic will produce a name, an address, a car registration number.

This second part is not a vast operation. The Special Branch in London has fewer than 500 offi-

cers, the anti-terrorist branch far fewer still, while the IRA leadership is even smaller, well known and virtually restricted to the Irish Republic. Mainland operations appear to be carried out by small, independent cells with a low level of expertise, unknown to one another and unsuspected by the community in which they live.

But alongside the two strands of the investigation is a management operation concerned with its public face. There may never be any arrests; Scotland Yard must be prepared for eventual public and political criticism and to provide reasons for failure. There must be precautions against a backlash directed at the Irish community. The last major IRA campaign saw at least one Irish school petrol-bombed, assaults on Irish workers, and boycotts of Irish businesses.

And if there are any arrests, the police will be acutely aware of the mistakes at Guildford and Birmingham. The public may want quick and decisive action; there may be enormous pressure on the police to produce results, but there will be an overwhelming national and international concern that only the guilty — and not scapegoats — are charged and sentenced.

The author is editor of Police Review.

David Powell calls for tough measures to prevent incidents like that at Cosford

Suspend the errant athletes



One bad move that led to another: with his deliberate stare, Burrell (left) provoked Christie into swearing — and a near punch-up



Millions of television viewers watched the angry confrontation between the sprinters Leroy Burrell and Linford Christie after their race at RAF Cosford on Sunday. Mr Burrell's deliberate provocation, Mr Christie's abuse and their finger-wagging set to could not have seemed further from the sportsmanship and heroism of Harold Abrahams and Eric Liddell so memorably portrayed in *Chariots of Fire*. But theirs was a different world.

Although the authorities insist on retaining references to an amateur sport (International Amateur Athletic Federation, British Amateur Athletic Board), and although there is no appearance money at the Olympics or world championships, today's sprinters are handsomely rewarded. Money has raised the stakes of athletics above mere pride in winning gold medals. They are paid for just turning up, with bonus money for breaking records. They are fast men, earning fast bucks.

When Mr Burrell tried to set an indoor world record for the 60 metres in Madrid last week, but was disqualified for a false start, he asked to try again. The second time out of his blocks, he took the record and the bonus. His rates work out at close to £10,000 for each second's running.

The television pictures of Messrs Christie and Burrell standing, like boxers, eyeball to eyeball before the race, were a reminder that commerce rules athletics. Television attracts sponsors, sponsors line the athletes' pockets, and competing athletes are the big draw that sells tickets.

On Sunday those commercial pressures proved too much for Mr Burrell (he was in England rather than home on an American circuit because "American promoters cannot produce the dollars and you can make more money here"). During the race he turned to give Mr Christie, who was

failing to keep up, a long, deliberate stare, as much as to say "You're not in my class." It is true, of course. Mr Burrell has replaced Ben Johnson and Carl Lewis as the world No 1. Mr Christie has been trying for years to get there, came close when he won an Olympic silver medal but now, aged 30 and seven years older than Mr Burrell, must accept that he probably never will. Mr Burrell is simply too good for Britain's most popular athlete and it was Mr Christie's humiliation in front of his home crowd at Cosford that made him lose his temper and threaten the American in public.

Who knows what might have happened if officials had not intervened to keep the two apart? As it was, the incident was captured on television. Even though both men have since apologised for their behaviour, the governing bodies must act to protect the image of athletics, which has already been severely

damaged by the drugs problem. They have set about combating drug-taking by testing athletes at random and without notice. Those who refuse or fail a test are banned from competition. The authorities should now consider a general code of conduct, so that disciplinary action could be taken against athletes bringing their sport into disrepute for other offences, just as Ben Johnson was suspended for his positive drugs test after winning the Olympic 100 metres in 1988.

The tennis authorities claim that such a policy has worked for them. The boorish behaviour of the likes of Messrs Nastase, Connors and McEnroe threatened to spread like a virus, but has been contained, if not eradicated, by penalties for offenders. The fines may be meaningless to the millionaire players, but forfeiting points and games is a successful deterrent.

Athletics needs similar measures. The Christie and Burrell

incident was neither the first nor the most extreme case of aggression between athletes at an international event. Two 800 metre runners started fighting in the Bislett Stadium, Oslo, some years ago; and in Birmingham last summer two athletes spilled off the track during the Amateur Athletic Association 1,500 metres final and, while the race continued, squared up to each other in full view of spectators and television.

While fines may prove an awkward legal hurdle for officials to clear in a sport which purports to be amateur, a range of suspensions depending on the offence may put a stop to incidents like that on Sunday before other athletes are tempted to copy it. And why shouldn't the authorities make clear their disapproval of runners who, on entering the finishing straight knowing their race to be won, belittle their opponents by arrogantly waving to the crowd? Steve Ovett, an Olympic 800 metres champion,

used to offend in just this way. Had Mr Burrell faced, say, a one-month ban at a crucial time on the international fixtures list for baiting Mr Christie, had Mr Christie faced the same for his abusive response, perhaps none of this would have happened. Though powerful promoters, rich sponsors and increasingly influential athletes' agents may challenge any attempt by the authorities to keep their assets on the shelf, even temporarily, tough measures are required to maintain standards of sportsmanship.

For Mr Christie this was no way to repay an old friend. RAF Cosford was where he took his first strides as an indoor athlete, and it was indoor athletics that provided the platform to his spectacular outdoor success as Europe's finest-ever sprinter. After 31 years as England's home of indoor athletics, the old aircraft hangar was staging its last international fixture. This is a sad way to remember it.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Let me quickly say that I have nothing against immortality. And let me almost as quickly say that the immortality I have nothing against is, of course the meta-phorical variety, because, even if it existed, I should have a great deal against the other sort. It would be no fun at all waking up on your billionth birthday, opening your billionth batch of jocular cards, and trying to think of somewhere different to go for dinner.

No, the immortality under inspection here is the only one currently on offer to us, viz the immortality that might come your way after your mortality had run its inevitable course — what should, I suppose, more properly be called paramortality. It is little more, really, than the property of being remembered; for though we are all footprints in the sands of time, if we may so arrange it that a little fortifying cement is sprinkled in that mortal wake to enable posterity to stand on the crest of time's windy dune, point to the indentation and say "Oh look, old so-and-so passed this way!" we shall be the happier to pop our clogs, knowing that our libbin' has not been in vain.

Especially if we have helped somebody as we rolled along. Because that little more than the property of being remembered is the being remembered benevolently, something yet harder to ensure. If we are one of the rare ones, of course, we can jot down *King Lear*, or spot the Awdry potential of a rattling kente-lid, or come up with a

recipe for stout, but if we belong to the vast majority of common ones, then there is generally not a great deal we can do to guarantee that, after the earth has rolled on our own lid, our name will be legion and our works extolled. Oh, we can plant a magnolia, or make a video of our weekend in Rhyl, or have our A-level certificate tastefully framed for subsequent bequest, but as hedges against perishability, these cannot be said to count for much.

They know this at Heritage Ceramics Inc., Denver, Col. I know that they know this because they have written to tell me so. It may well be that they have also written to you, because there is nothing special about me; I know that there is nothing special about me because, if there were, Heritage Ceramics wouldn't have written to me. They wouldn't have offered me an Invitation to Become Your Own Heirloom.

Here is how it works. You send Heritage Ceramics two personal items: one is a photograph with your face on it, the other is a cheque with your signature on it. Having put the latter in their out-tray, they take your photograph from their in-tray, and they pass it to master-ceramists working in the time-honoured traditions of their craft. These worthy fellows transfer-print your face, and glaze it in kilns, not once but four times, ensuring that it is proofed to a resistance twice as high as that which attaches to the toughest dishwasher. They do this because you are now a

106-piece dinner-service. Your face is grinning up not merely from plates and bowls, but also from oven-to-table tureens and serving-ladders. It need not be your face alone, either: you may wish to be a husband-and-wife dinner service, but since this is mentioned only in a footnote, I conclude that Heritage Ceramics have looked at the divorce statistics and concluded that deathless crockery might have its embarrassments, too.

They prefer to emphasise the boons. "Just think, two centuries from now, your ancestors could be sitting down to a formal dinner off... I pause, because while they cry "— off this unique family heirloom! I think "— off your face". It is 2191, and I am gazing up at my descendants through a puddle of consommé. The next course comes, and now I lie hidden beneath gammon and two veg, to be gradually revealed as an ancestor with a pea in one eye, a carrot where his nose should be, and a shard of gristle in his hair.

Now it is pudding time, and I am being hurried from oven-to-table, and, oh look, my contents have boiled over. I am just a chin emerging from beneath a treacle cloud. "Who's that?" shriek the children. "Why," replies their mother, "it is Great-great-great Grandpa Coren, of course, and take that smirk off your face, he is worth a fortune, despite the crack in his ladle."

I do believe I'll take a rain-check. No offence, but I know where I can lay my hands on a really sturdy magnolia.

BBC braces for early poll

Should John Major decide to test the opinion polls, the BBC is ready to do its duty. Despite the expenditure of millions of pounds on Gulf war coverage, the specially commissioned election studio and the expensive computer graphics are ready for an early poll.

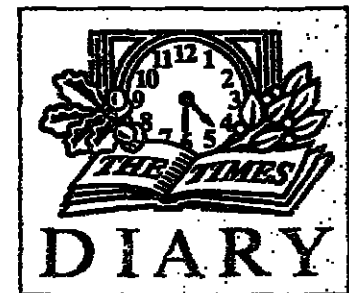
An official spokesman says no expense will be spared should Major soon go to the country. "There is no question of scaling down our coverage because of events in the Gulf."

The top trio of David Dimbleby, Peter Snow and Peter Sissons will be responsible for the BBC's efforts. A fortnight ago, they took part in an intensive, two-day rehearsal. They had before them four possible election scenarios: a Tory landslide, a narrow Tory win, a Labour victory, and a hung parliament. Peter Sissons, who will be in charge of interviewing panels of guests, says: "The specially built studio is the biggest set I have seen. It's all rigged up with an amazing display of hardware and computer graphics."

Not is there any question that coverage of the campaign will be any less ambitious than the results programme. "There are no constraints," says the spokesman. "We already have the reporters in the field thanks to the BBC's regional network, so candidates can be followed around the country."

Over at ITN, the outlook is not so rosy. The Gulf war has gobbled up the contingency fund, and ITN will have to ask the independent television companies, already suffering from the advertising downturn, for more money.

The BBC, however, would welcome an early election: "If we have to wait until next year we will have to come up with new electronic sequences and computer programmes."



Devotees of the David Lynch cult series *Twin Peaks*, which concludes tonight on BBC 2, need not be despondent. Having finally discovered who murdered heroine Laura Palmer, they can look forward to the publication of an exhaustive guide to the Canadian town in the spring. The *Twin Peaks* Guide includes details of the flora and fauna to be found in the mythical area, and how to make a *Twin Peaks* doughnut.

Squeezed out

E-x-King Constantine of Greece, who has always believed that his people would one day welcome him back, seems to have had a change of heart. Nearly two decades after he was deposed, his furniture and effects, including *objets d'art*, will shortly join him in exile in London. With the sanction of the Greek government, nine tonnes-loads of belongings from his former summer palace at Tatoi, near Athens, were loaded yesterday on a German cargo ship bound for Britain.

"None of the material has any historical or archaeological value, and no item is more than 150 years old," says the Greek finance minister, Ioannis Paleokrassas. "It is all part of the ex-king's personal property included in an inventory handed back because of a tax claim. Last year the government levied

£957,000 in property and income tax on Constantine, but it is now looking at other ways to get the money.

The ex-king now faces the problem of what to do with the vast quantity of furniture. Although he lives in considerable comfort, it seems unlikely that his home in Hampstead Garden Suburb could accommodate it all.

War's other victims

Douglas Adams, author of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, plans to visit Gulf war battlefields once the artillery falls silent to gather material for a book about the plight of wildlife in war zones around the world.

He and his co-author, Mark Carwardine, had the idea long before the invasion of Kuwait. They have already researched the plight of animals in Afghanistan, Uganda, Nicaragua and Vietnam. "In south-east Asia we were particularly interested in the kouprey, a species of wild ox on the borders of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, which has been devastated by minefields," says Adams. "No-one has seen one for some time, and there are fears that it may be extinct."

There are no such fears, as yet, for wildlife in the desert around Kuwait, but Adams and Carwardine

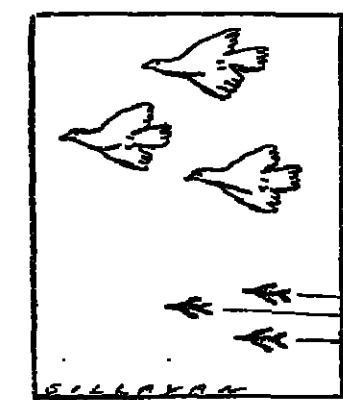
dine are concerned about the long-term effects of the oil spillages in the northern Gulf on fish and bird life.

● Captain Cook's claim to be the first European to land in Botany Bay has been questioned by Australian scientists, who say an obscure Portuguese sailor may be a more suitable candidate. Geologists have discovered a Portuguese lead fishing weight while collecting samples of sediment from Fraser Island, off the coast of Queensland. Bill Ward, of Griffith University in Brisbane, thinks it may have been dropped overboard 400 years before Captain Cook's arrival. Luckily such weighty matters are not affecting the celebrations, already under way, of the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Christopher Columbus in America.

Moving right

Millionaire John Martin, a founding member of the SDP and close supporter of David Owen, has joined the Conservative party, thereby improving its chances of retaining one of the key London marginals on which Labour has set its sights. In 1988 Martin stood for the SDP in the Kensington by-election. He came fourth with only 1,190 votes — but that was almost 400 more than the margin separating Dudley Fishburn, the Tory winner, and his Labour challenger, Martin. A popular figure in Kensington, where he lives, Come the general election he will try to swing the SDP vote behind Fishburn, and if it is a close contest, that support could be crucial.

Martin has undergone a rapid change of heart. When Owen announced the winding-up of the party last summer, he led an unsuccessful rear-guard action to keep the party alive. Conservative Central Office, expressing its delight at recruiting him, says: "They always come round to our way of thinking in the end."





BEATING TERROR

Only one comment is worth making on the London station bombs yesterday. It came from a commuter: "This is never going to put people like me off travelling." The carnage can be excoriated. Pundits can be wise after the event. The public can be vigilant. The police can be reinforced. But no city can be made secure from the "terrible simplicity" of an anarchist bomb, Conrad's "best in a street full of men".

No city can be made secure, but the mind of a city can and must retain its sense of security. Terrorist is a word too casually used of the murderer, the criminal, the revolutionary, even the rebel. It has become a general term of abuse for acts of violence committed to achieve a political end. A bomb in a crowded station concourse is properly described as terrorist. Its purpose is not, like the Downing Street mortar, to kill politicians or disrupt the work of government but simply to induce terror. The perpetrators hope that the public will be less inclined to use public transport, will be inconvenienced, will grow angry and finally press the government to concede the point at issue. They hope thereby to change policy while bypassing the democratic process.

The IRA has apparently decided to bring to Britain the tactic of economic disruption long employed in Belfast, and last tried in London in the 1970s. The first bomb must "bite" so that subsequent random warnings, including hoaxes, will be taken seriously.

Two responses to this are appropriate. First, by no extent of tolerable administration can such outrages be avoided or even marginalised. But speed of police reaction and swiftness in the subsequent return to

normality are vital. Railway stations and airports are beyond blanket security. The flow of people through London stations is as intrinsic to the life and work of London as is the flow of people along streets. There is no practical way of stopping such bombs. They must be regarded as accidents, diabolical but unavoidable. To be terrified is the worst reaction because it is the one the terrorist is specifically demanding.

The second response requires more courage, this time from those in authority. It is not to allow the perpetrators of terror to dictate the political agenda, whether or not that agenda may work to the latter's short-term interests. The British government's approach towards Northern Ireland has become dangerously neutralised by what is known as the politics of the last atrocity. The IRA seems able to undermine each move towards communal rapprochement by an act of violence. Ministers thus risk letting the IRA claim that any change in policy is induced by its actions. When that happens, policy ceases to be rooted in sound government and veers towards ad hoc defensiveness.

Down this grim road to totalitarianism have passed a hundred states. Britain is mercifully not on that path. But every public bomb is a beckoning finger, inviting an escalation of terror and counter-terror. Such escalation would be a disaster for policy in Northern Ireland and for politics in Britain. No such outrage should ever make the people of London desert their public spaces or their public services. To go normally about one's business is the only victory every citizen can score against terrorism.

ELECTRIFYING OFFER

The government chose a comic variant of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* to sell the privatisation of the 12 regional electricity companies. Now that they look likely to ask for price increases of up to 13 per cent, the electricity companies may be rising up in a way wholly unexpected by their creator. If it wants to control inflation, the government cannot afford to let this particular monster go on the rampage.

Price bargaining between the government and nationalised, or in this case regulated, industries, is less public than pay bargaining but no less critical to the economy. If the government were facing a demand for rises of up to 13 per cent from a group of its own employees, it would argue that such increases were inflationary — though it recently showed it might concede them none the less. It is now facing such a demand from the privatised electricity companies and the bid should be rejected by the industry's watchdog, the Office of Electricity Supply (Offer) with vigour.

Offer was set up by the energy secretary, John Wakeham, as a statutorily independent body, empowered to reject proposed price increases from the regional companies. Mr Wakeham was involved in devising the present price formula, which obliges Offer to ensure that electricity prices rise by less than the rate of inflation over a three-year period. Stephen Littlechild, Offer's director-general, should look hard at any bids which come in from the companies, and knock them down where appropriate. The professor has good role-models in his opposite numbers who regulate British Telecom and British Gas. They have been taking up the cudgels on behalf of their consumers with satisfying results.

There is certainly some power politics in this. The power companies may simply be pushing up their initial demands in order to see them bargained down by Offer to a more sensible level. This would allow the companies to build up a useful grievance for next year, while looking reasonable to the public, and probably reaching roughly the price they privately wanted.

Under the new rules, if the electricity

companies do not raise their prices by the rate of inflation one year, they can make up the loss in a subsequent year. It looks as if the electricity companies are going to plead this principle in aid this year. To set a price increase for April, the companies use a figure predicted by the Treasury for inflation the following October. Because the government last year badly underestimated inflation, the companies say their prices are too low by 4.9 per cent. Adding that to the 5.5 per cent inflation forecast for this October would allow the companies under the price formula to look for overall increases of more than 10 per cent. Additional investment costs also allowed for might push the figure towards 13 per cent.

Whatever the formula, this is nonsense. The Treasury did get its sums wrong last year. But other industrial concerns that have been hard hit by the Treasury's miscalculations have no special-case arrangements to recoup the cost of government mistakes from customers; nor should the electricity companies. The fact that they do may be a fault of the original formula. When Offer reviews the procedure over the next two years, it might conclude that such a deal has no place in the industry's pricing structure, and ought to be abandoned.

The government has at the heart of its economic policies the control of inflation. Every month, as the unemployment figures rise, it exhorts pay bargainings to reach wage settlements below the level of inflation. No such exhortation is made to boards in the corporate sector; investors were outraged when the chairman of Barclays Bank suggested that his bank might not be able to pay a dividend 5 per cent above inflation. There are few indications that self-discipline is applied to government activities.

If the government is to be taken seriously in wishing to reduce structural inflation, it should measure its every decision against the test of whether it will reduce or increase inflation. Only when such a rigorous criterion is uniformly applied is the public likely to be convinced that inflation is under control.

SHEPHERDS LOST

"God moves in a mysterious way," says William Cowper's hymn. His words are a comfort when, as in wartime, it is more than usually difficult to "justify God's ways to men". But Cowper would surely have been confirmed in his view had he attended an assembly of the World Council of Churches. At the WCC's seventh assembly in Canberra, on the theme of the Holy Ghost, the workings of Providence are transcending human powers of comprehension.

A draft statement to be approved today on behalf of the WCC's 316-member churches demands a ceasefire in the Gulf, an allied withdrawal and linkage to agreements on Israel and Lebanon. The resolution, which might as well have been written in Baghdad in Canberra, prompts the question: what is the WCC for?

This is not a new question. It was asked decades ago by many Christians over the WCC's support for the "armed struggle" in southern Africa. Members of the Church of England delegation in Canberra, which led criticism of the Gulf war, may be asking themselves the same question. The Vatican is content to send observers to these expensive septennial assemblies, though the Roman Catholic church is not a member. The theological extravagance of speeches at Canberra is apparently causing the Orthodox churches to consider withdrawing.

The egregious opportunism displayed by the WCC over the Gulf war was predictable. Things have changed since the Korean war, when the WCC supported the use of force by the United Nations against communist aggression, and its members in mainland China resigned. Yesterday the Chinese Christian Council, which is run by the

Peking government, was readmitted to the WCC despite protests from Christians in Hong Kong and Taiwan who feel threatened by this 11-year-old pseudo-church.

Given the WCC's claim to speak for ecumenical Christianity, its status in world councils is important. It has become increasingly dominated by the familiar cocktail of an unaccountable bureaucracy, supported by Third World delegates of doubtful allegiance and an embarrassed, guilt-ridden cohort of white westerners. The WCC is not unlike other international organisations, whether political (such as the Commonwealth) or cultural (such as Unesco). Because it is now of value to both Moscow and Washington, the UN itself has never quite succumbed to this fate, though it has come perilously close at times.

Just as Unesco was forced by the withdrawal of Western funds to make an effort to weed out corruption, so the WCC should be obliged to reform itself, if necessary by the resignation of discontented member churches. Above all, more constitutional accountability would make it harder for extremists to hijack WCC assemblies.

The defunct British Council of Churches dissolved itself after much criticism, to re-emerge as the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland, more representative of clergy and laymen alike. Delegates to its assemblies are bound to seek a mandate from their churches. WCC delegations should likewise be made to consult their hierarchies before committing the churches they serve. The WCC might then be listened to with respect, whether or not it considers politics to be its main preoccupation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Planning now for after the conflict

From Mr Frank Blackaby and others

Sir, There is a temptation to argue that military logic has taken over in the enforcement process in the Gulf and that there is nothing else to be done until the war is over. This is surely wrong.

We should call for the active pursuit of diplomacy even while the war is going on, centred on the continued good offices of the United Nations secretary-general, who should be positively encouraged by the full membership of the UN in this role. The Security Council should watch carefully to ensure that the objectives of military enforcement do not go beyond those set out in its resolutions.

There are in addition immediate actions to be taken now to make military enforcement less terrible: for example, humanitarian assistance to Iraq's neighbours to help them to provide for refugees from Iraq and to provide medical help for Iraqi civilians.

Looking further ahead, the main need is to strengthen and broaden the capabilities of the Security Council to act in situations of this kind. More work must be done to develop non-military methods for exerting international coercion on governments which commit aggression.

If military methods are ultimately needed, then the military forces involved should be drawn from a greater number of UN member states and should come under direct

Security Council control. The machinery for this already exists; it now needs to be made effective.

It must surely be obvious now to practically everyone that something must be done about the inequities of the arms trade, by which the industrialised countries provide the weapons which are subsequently used against their own forces. For example, Western Europe's missile technology control regime could be extended to cover many more weapon systems and more countries, including, of course, the Soviet Union.

In addition, work should begin now on planning UN observer and peacekeeping forces for Kuwait's borders and also on planning for the reconstruction needs of the peoples of Kuwait and Iraq.

The countries of the area should be encouraged to begin to develop, under the auspices of the UN, a comprehensive regional security structure which covers all the Middle East, including Israel, Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza. The plan could include a nuclear, chemical and biological weapon-free zone for the whole region.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK BLACKABY (former director, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute),
MALCOLM HARPER (Director, United Nations Association, UK),
A. MACKIE (Vice-President, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament),
J. ROTBLAT,
9 Fentiman Road, SW8,
February 16.

Awards for Kuwaitis

From Mr Stefan Kemball

Sir, I was much taken with your Diary item (February 13) about Sir John Hackett's efforts after Anabem to secure medals for a dying fellow-officer's nominees. The proposals initially got nowhere: they had not been submitted on the "proper forms".

I hope that no such nonsense will prevent the award of some rather special civilian decorations following liberation — to the many Kuwaiti families who last summer sheltered British citizens at the risk of torture and death.

These British refugees and ex-hostages — reflecting daily, no doubt, on the fate of their former hosts — are now widely scattered across the world. I am sure that most of them will have no idea (when the time comes) how to apply for, let alone complete, "proper forms".

Can the government please assure us that red-tape will not prevent official honours for true grit? I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
STEFAN F. KEMBALL,
PO Box 3222,
Sharjah,
United Arab Emirates,
February 17.

A 'desire for war'

From Mr A. C. Plummer

Sir, With reference to Professor Lynn's argument ("Casting our mind's desire for war", February 2) and the letters you published (February 11) surely the question is not why do people form into groups in order to go to war, but why do people form into groups in the first place?

There must be some very good reason why people are willing to subordinate their own individuality to a group belief system and follow its leader. In part it is to ensure some degree of internal security for group members. Nation states and even civilisations are cases in point.

However, groups, by their very nature, are externally divisive: the "insiders" are separated from the "outsiders". As a result, any threat to a group's integrity can encourage members to do things that they wouldn't dream of doing in different circumstances. At extremes, they will commit suicide and, of course, go to war.

Doesn't this mean that the basis of war is psychological, not biological, as Professor Lynn maintains?

Yours faithfully,
A. C. PLUMMER,
Conifers, Ravenstock Lane,
Little Walden, Essex,
February 12.

NHS trusts

From Dr David Lawson

Sir, Mr M. A. Nelson (February 16) suggests that the only cure for the national health service is more resources "which no amount of reorganising and efficiency can ever provide". Although the provision of extra resources might be desirable, the first priority must surely be to get the best out of the existing resources.

The work of this organisation shows that the NHS, along with many other service organisations, typically spends only 60-70 per cent of its time and money on fulfilling, as Mr Nelson put it, "its intentions". The rest is spent redacting things that were done incorrectly, doing the wrong things, waiting, wastage, etc. There is equally substantial evidence that such losses can be dramatically reduced leading to a great increase in the efficiency of the service provided and making significant cash available to extend the range of services offered.

Merely providing more money, when one pound out of every three will be wasted, is not the optimum solution.

Yours faithfully,
D. LAWSON (Director),
Crosby Associates UK Limited,
Century House,
5 Hill Street,
Richmond, Surrey,
February 18.

□ The second paragraph of Mr Nelson's letter should have ended: "Supposed waiting lists and outpatient waiting time have become measures used to evaluate the success of the [NHS]".

NUJ and the Gulf

From Mr Joe Haines

Sir, I have been a member of the National Union of Journalists for 40 years. I expect and require it to represent my interests and those of fellow journalists. Questions affecting conditions of employment, health and welfare and pensions and at all times to defend the freedom of the press.

I therefore support its protests against censorship which is not essential to military operations.

On the other hand, the National Executive Committee of the union has no right to purport to represent me on political matters (letters, February 18), especially when it itself is so heavily influenced by tiny groups which operate on the fringe of politics.

The NUJ executive (about 15 of whom passed the resolution opposing the war) speaks only for itself. Not for me, not for its general secretary and certainly not for its 25,000 members.

Yours sincerely,
JOE HAINES,
1 South Fifth, London Road,
Southborough,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent,
February 18.

From Dr Roy Willis

Sir, There are several things wrong with Richard Lynn's argument that human beings are biologically predisposed to make war. First, his argument is at fault. If a warlike tribe kills all the men in a peaceful one, that will not "extinguish" the peaceful genes since the surviving women will be producing children who are 50 per cent peaceful.

People who go in for a lot of fighting tend to die early and are therefore less likely to hand on their bell-curve genes than the peaceable stay-at-homes who can breed for much longer. It is far from obvious that the genes for warfare will prevail.

It is not true, as Lynn implies, that "peaceful" peoples have long been extinct. Anthropologists have documented several contemporary peaceful societies. Most fundamentally, no molecular biologist has yet identified in the human organism any entity corresponding to a gene for warfare — or for peace.

Any theory, like Lynn's, that assumes the existence of such genes lacks scientific foundation.

Yours sincerely,
ROY WILLIS,
University of Edinburgh,
(Department of Social Anthropology),
Adam Ferguson Building,
George Square, Edinburgh,
February 8.

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Ebb or flow

From Mr A. Cumane

Sir, Will there be a contraflow in the London ring road main during maintenance work?

Yours sincerely,
TONY CUMANE,
14 Pelham Close, Sudbrook, Lincoln,
February 18.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

Steps to lowering interest rates

From Sir Fred Catherwood, MEP for Cambridge and North Bedfordshire (European Democrat (Conservative))

Sir, An Irish businessman told me: When the Irish government fixed the punt in the ERM (exchange-rate mechanism) none of us thought they would stick to it. But after a couple of years we said to ourselves that the punt clearly meant it. So then we asked ourselves what we were doing paying those high interest rates to the Dublin banks. So we went off and borrowed in Amsterdam and Frankfurt and borrowed at half the interest rate — and that did wonders for the rates of interest in Ireland.

The biggest part of the difference between British interest rates and those in Amsterdam and Frankfurt is the risk premium against devaluation, which will continue so long as those who argued so long against fixing the pound pursue their lost cause by arguing for devaluation instead.

The future of British industry does not lie in vain attempts to reduce the cost of labour through devaluations. It lies in confidence in a stable currency which will give us the competitive interest rates needed to enable British industry to invest for the new products of the continental-scale market of the 1990s.

Yours faithfully,
FRED CATHERWOOD
(Vice-President,
European Parliament),
Shire Hall, Castle Hill, Cambridge,
February 13.

From Mrs Elspeth Huxley

Sir, In what looks increasingly like the run-up to the depression of the 1930s our government, whose first priority is to reduce inflation, has awarded (report, February 1) pay rises of up to 12 per cent (in two stages), nearly 4 per cent above the rate of inflation, to top civil servants, judges and others, thereby setting an example which has no doubt been taken note of by trade union negotiators and others.

Would they consider setting an example in the contrary, 1930-style, direction, when such pay, if my memory serves me right, was cut by about 10 per cent across the board?

Yours faithfully,
ELSPETH HUXLEY,
Green End, Oaksey,
Malmesbury, Wiltshire,
February 13.

From Mr A. B. M. Good

Sir, Surely a more constructive alternative to high interest rates to restrain consumer demand would be increased encouragement to saving by extending the present concessionary schemes to cover investment in the UK equity market to an agreed annual ceiling.

If, for example, equity investment through nominated bank or broker accounts for, say, a five-year period were to attract tax relief at an investor's highest rate, much of the

inherent fear of the market by unsophisticated investors would be removed.

Additionally, were capital-gains tax to be levied only at the end of the period on the difference, net of indexation relief, between the original investment and the realised proceeds, the negative effects of taxing purely notional gains would also be eliminated.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY B. M. GOOD
(Chairman, Good Consultancy Ltd),
39 Bullingham Mansions,
Kensington Church Street, W8,
February 13.

From Mr R. H. Y. Mills

Sir, Neither the economists nor the government are addressing the structural change that is required in the UK to abandon the blunt disciplinary instrument of high interest rates. High rates provide no distinction between production and consumption. The effect of lower corporate taxation has been more than compensated for by continuous high real interest rates. Corporation tax only has to be paid on profits. Interest has to be paid on working capital, whether a company is making a profit or a loss.

The last material change in taxes on consumption was the change in VAT in 1979. The scope has been marginally extended since then.

The first step should be to make interest subject to VAT. This would automatically introduce a differential cost between borrowing for value-adding and borrowing for consumption. The second step should be to widen the scope of VAT further and at the same time to introduce differential rates between zero and say 27½ per cent.

It is unpalatable for politicians to tax consumption, but if it represents the alternative to political "harakiri" it may be digestible.

Yours faithfully,
R. H. Y. MILLS,
Barrington Grove, Burford, Oxford,
February 14.

From Mr Philip G. Turner

Sir, The government's response to today's letter from six respected economists appears to be that it is doing us good to be tied to the Deutschmark at current levels; but is this so?

By being tied in this way British industry and its employees are having to make economic sacrifice (through higher than needed interest costs) to help pay for German reunification. When the truth about the costs and inflationary implications of reunification become apparent the D-Mark may not be the favoured currency it now is.

Yours,
PHILIP TURNER,
93 Larkhall Rise,
Clapham Old Town, SW4,
February 13.

School resources

From the General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers

Sir, No one involved in education can be satisfied with the report of Her Majesty's Inspectors (details, February 14). For as long as any child gets a raw deal improvements are needed.

The report claims that some children get a raw deal because of the shortcomings of teachers but it makes clear that there are other factors damaging children's prospects.

The inadequate provision of books, the shortage of appropriate equipment, non-teaching support staff and unsatisfactory buildings are the other factors identified by the HMI which hamper children's education.

The most glaring effect of the denial of finance is shown by the HMI's comments on the state of school buildings. Nearly half the primary and 40 per cent of secondary school buildings were less than satisfactory. This is a direct result of government under-funding.

As recently as last October, the government decided to delay the application of ten-year-old school building regulations for a further five years. These regulations would have required a massive injection of money but would have resulted in dramatic improvements in accommodation to the benefit of pupils.

All these inadequacies make the teachers' job more difficult and undoubtedly cause some teachers to be less effective resulting in their pupils under-achieving.

Each of these shortcomings can be corrected but only if there is a substantial increase in resources for schools. The government's attitude is not to provide more but to provide less. The government fails our pupils more than teachers.

Yours sincerely,
DOUG McAVOY,
General Secretary,
National Union of Teachers,
Hamilton House,
Mableton Place, WC1,
February 14.

Elementary

From Mr G. J. Griffin

Sir, I am no Sherlock Holmes, but would not the trunk of "Friend and collector of manuscripts", James Fraser Gluck (report, February 15), have been a rather obvious place to search for Mark Twain's missing *Huckleberry Finn* pages?

Yours sincerely,
G. J. GRIFFIN,
19 Kilbride Avenue,
Dunoon, Argyll.

From Norman Fowler in 1985

But is there any chance that the government will take any more notice of the National Audit Office than it did of the Social Security Commission?

It is time the social fund took its place alongside that other major failure, the poll tax, and both should be scrapped at once.

Yours sincerely,
R. E. MORLEY (Director),
Family Welfare Association,
501-505 Kingsland Road, E8,
February 13.

Social fund

From Mr R. E. Morley

Sir, The National Audit Office's report (details, February 13) on the social fund confirms what many of us have been saying from the moment it was first mooted. It is not helping poor people and is probably making many of them poorer; the loan principle was ill-conceived from the beginning, and inevitably the principle of discretion is not only unfair but also wasteful.

All of its criticisms were made to

THE funeral of a man who was killed in a car crash on the M1 near Luton, Bedfordshire, on the morning of the 19th, will be held at 11.30am on the 20th at the Luton Crematorium. The deceased was Mr. John Smith, 45, of Luton. The funeral will be conducted by the Rev. Canon J. Smith. The family would like to thank all those who have offered their sympathy and support.

BIRTHS

ALTON - On February 18, 1991, to Suzanne (nee Edwards) and Robert, a son, William James Alexander.

ASTAR - On February 18, 1991, to the Hon. Mrs. Elizabeth and Mr. A. J. Astar, a son, Alexander.

BUTLER - On February 18, 1991, to the Hon. Mrs. Butler and Mr. Butler, a son, Christopher.

CARROLL-ROBINSON - On February 18, 1991, to the Hon. Mrs. Carroll-Robinson and Mr. Carroll-Robinson, a son, James.

CHILDS - On February 18, 1991, to the Hon. Mrs. Childs and Mr. Childs, a son, Thomas.

COHEN - On February 18, 1991, to the Hon. Mrs. Cohen and Mr. Cohen, a son, David.

DIXON - On February 18, 1991, to the Hon. Mrs. Dixon and Mr. Dixon, a son, John.

EATON - On February 18, 1991, to the Hon. Mrs. Eaton and Mr. Eaton, a son, Michael.

FOX - On February 18, 1991, to the Hon. Mrs. Fox and Mr. Fox, a son, Robert.

GIBSON - On February 18, 1991, to the Hon. Mrs. Gibson and Mr. Gibson, a son, William.

HEATH - On February 18, 1991, to the Hon. Mrs. Heath and Mr. Heath, a son, James.

LANCASTER - On February 18, 1991, to the Hon. Mrs. Lancaster and Mr. Lancaster, a son, Thomas.

MARTIN - On February 18, 1991, to the Hon. Mrs. Martin and Mr. Martin, a son, David.

MILNER - On February 18, 1991, to the Hon. Mrs. Milner and Mr. Milner, a son, John.

ROBERTS - On February 18, 1991, to the Hon. Mrs. Roberts and Mr. Roberts, a son, Michael.

SAUNDERS - On February 18, 1991, to the Hon. Mrs. Saunders and Mr. Saunders, a son, Robert.

SMITH - On February 18, 1991, to the Hon. Mrs. Smith and Mr. Smith, a son, William.

THOMAS - On February 18, 1991, to the Hon. Mrs. Thomas and Mr. Thomas, a son, James.

WATSON - On February 18, 1991, to the Hon. Mrs. Watson and Mr. Watson, a son, David.

WILLIAMS - On February 18, 1991, to the Hon. Mrs. Williams and Mr. Williams, a son, John.

WILSON - On February 18, 1991, to the Hon. Mrs. Wilson and Mr. Wilson, a son, Michael.

YOUNG - On February 18, 1991, to the Hon. Mrs. Young and Mr. Young, a son, Robert.

ZIMMERMAN - On February 18, 1991, to the Hon. Mrs. Zimmerman and Mr. Zimmerman, a son, Thomas.

ADAMS - On February 18, 1991, to the Hon. Mrs. Adams and Mr. Adams, a son, David.

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DAVIS - On February 18, 1991, to the Hon. Mrs. Davis and Mr. Davis, a son, James.

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SCOTT - On February 18, 1991, to the Hon. Mrs. Scott and Mr. Scott, a son, James.

STEWART - On February 18, 1991, to the Hon. Mrs. Stewart and Mr. Stewart, a son, Michael.

TAYLOR - On February 18, 1991, to the Hon. Mrs. Taylor and Mr. Taylor, a son, Robert.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

CURRY - On February 19, 1991, to the Hon. Mrs. Curry and Mr. Curry, a son, William.

DUNN - On February 19, 1991, to the Hon. Mrs. Dunn and Mr. Dunn, a son, David.

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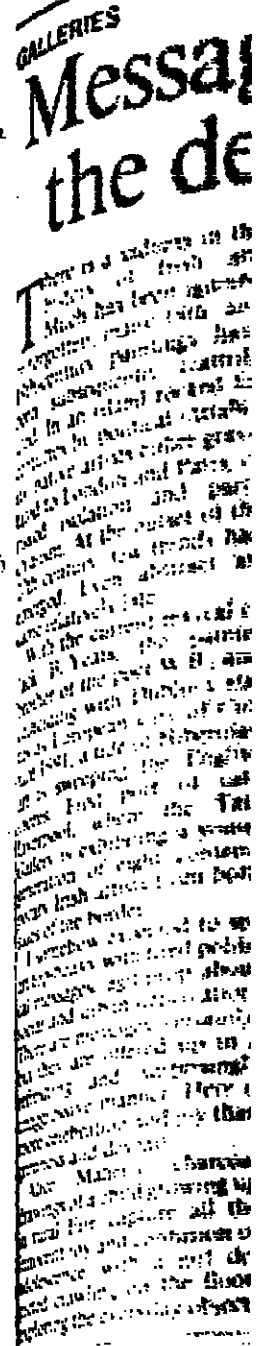
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GALLERIES

Messages shaped from the deep heart's core

There is a sadness in the history of Irish art. Much has been ignored or forgotten; many 18th- and 19th-century paintings have been subsequently reattributed. In an island rocked for centuries by political instability, native artists either gravitated to London and Paris, or risked isolation and parochialism. At the outset of the 20th century, few trends had emerged. Even abstract art came relatively late.

With the current revival of Jack B. Yeats, the painter brother of the poet W.B. Yeats, and coinciding with Dublin's status as European City of Culture 1991, a tide of Hibernian art is sweeping the English shores. First port of call: Liverpool, where the Tate Gallery is exhibiting a young generation of eight contemporary Irish artists from both sides of the border.

I somehow expected to see art top-heavy with tired political messages: agit-prop about social and urban deprivation. There are messages, certainly, but they are offered up in a refreshing and surprisingly unaggressive manner. Here is more celebration and joy than grime and despair.

Alice Maher's charcoal drawings of a child growing up in rural Eire capture all the innocent joy and confusion of adolescence, with a girl depicted crawling on the floor, exploring the everyday objects

Political, and yet unaggressive: Irish contemporary art at the Liverpool Tate, reviewed by Joseph Williams

about her. Martin Wedge, born in Belfast, draws quivering human shapes, some disturbing but others soft and rounded with half-defined faces and elongated limbs: as simple and effective as the childlike figures of French artist Jean Dubuffet.

The overtly political art in this exhibition creates a sense of territory, borders and barriers. Stepping between the tall metallic sculptures by Locky Morris, which shoot up like radio monitors, the visitor has an uncanny feeling of being watched. The effect is not so much claustrophobic, as simply reinforcing a sense of isolation. In Aidan Linehan's drawings, the Irish land itself has been violated by human intrusion, by jeeps, watchtowers and IRA arms caches.

The motif of surveillance is also extended into the theme of prisons and bars — of people both locked in and locked out of their own land — in Deirdre O'Connell's series

of drawings. Remarkably, the result is not depressing, because her bars are drawn into soft, circular patterns, suggesting an ancient Celtic religious site, and the ends of the bars are tipped backwards, as if votively.

Even the isolation in Jacinta Feeney's semi-abstract paintings of islands and birds is softened because the borders she paints are blurred, and the colours deep and mellow. Hers is no protest art: it shows, instead, an island trying to resolve its problems, an amorphous blob of land slowly inching towards definition.

Of course, the problem for contemporary Irish art is securing its bridgehead on the British mainland. Penelope Curtis, assistant curator of the Tate Liverpool, who visited 60 studios in Ireland before making her final choice for the exhibition, believes that native artists have relatively little access to galleries within Ireland: "Artists travel readily between Northern Ireland and the Republic, but they are always aware of their own cultural territory or space. London is still seen as the Mecca of art."

The tension between parochialism and nationalism in Ireland has deeply affected its art world. The fact that a lot of Irish art now leans towards figurative work suggests that artists have strong issues to address. In the Republic, for example, where abortion and divorce are illegal, feminism has expressed itself in art. Deirdre O'Connell has no regrets about remaining in Ireland: "I feel at home in Belfast, it's somewhere I can relate to. In the Seventies, Irish art was getting internationalist in a bland way; today it's more concerned with particular Irish issues."

Some London art dealers are more pessimistic. Colin Harper, director of Trinity Gallery, which deals in 20th-century British art, sees few interesting Irish trends developing: "Irish artists show little desire to bestide the European stage, or even to exhibit in London. They have been too isolated, and perhaps inhibited by a suffocating social climate."

If so, the ferry trip to Liverpool might be a sea-change for other budding Irish artists. Liverpool has always been a gateway to and from Ireland, so it is fitting that along with the Tate, Liverpool's other major art galleries — Walker Art, Bluecoat, and Open Eye — are all mounting their own exhibitions of contemporary Irish art. What they hope to show, no doubt, is that there is more to Ireland's heritage than its great literature.

Strongholds — New art from Ireland, is at the Tate Gallery Liverpool (051-709 3223) from tomorrow until April 7. Open: Tues-Fri 11am-5pm, Sat-Sun 11am-4pm (closed Mondays)



Capturing the confusion of adolescence: "Thicket", Alice Maher's 1990 mixed media/charcoal drawing



Joanne Woodward: attracted to the character "because I know Mrs Bridge very well. She is all the ladies I knew when I was growing up"

Struggle to bridge the divide

Tipped for an Oscar, Joanne Woodward tells

Anna Kythreotis how she drew on real life to create her character in *Mr and Mrs Bridge*

On the subject of film-acting, Joanne Woodward offers a brilliantly inventive analogy. Alas, it is too anatomical for a family newspaper. So instead, she paraphrases: "I hate it, and always have." That is the verdict of an actress who, by the age of 27, had won an Oscar, married Paul Newman and was apparently destined to ride the production line of Hollywood superstar treatment for the rest of her career.

Instead, she confounded the system by rejecting obvious star vehicles in favour of the eclectic and unclassifiable roles that established her as a serious actress.

Even at the height of her screen success, acting with Brando (*The Fugitive Kind*) and Orson Welles (*The Long Hot Summer*), she never considered herself primarily a screen actress. Trained at the Actors' Studio and the Neighbourhood Playhouse in New York, she has always been drawn by temperament to the theatre.

But judging by the neatly piled stacks of film-scripts in the New York apartment which the Newmans refer to quaintly as "the office" (home proper is Connecticut), this is a message that film-makers have chosen to ignore. She is still much in demand, though since she resumed her stage career over a decade ago (after an absence of 20 years) she has become increasingly reluctant to go back to the camera. When she does, more often than not, it is for television.

Indeed, she originally initiated her new film, *Mr and Mrs Bridge* (released in Britain this week), as a television project. Then the director James Ivory expressed an interest, and the film —

based on the two novels by American writer Evan Connell — developed into another of those classy literary adaptations at which the Merchant Ivory partnership excels. It received all the applause, though none of the prizes, at the Venice Film Festival last year, but since then Woodward has carried off the New York Critics' Circle Award for best actress, and her performance is strongly tipped for an Oscar. Certainly, she and Newman play the film's eponymous central couple with a degree of powerful understatement that emphasises both their pedigree and mutual empathy.

Mr and Mrs Bridge is an emotionally disturbing film, concerned with one basic truth: that it is impossible for two people, no matter how close, truly to know each other. Woodward was drawn to the part because "I know Mrs Bridge very well. She is all the ladies I knew when I was growing up." She was also intrigued by the structure of the two books, which cover the same period and the same events but from different eyes. "That is the beauty of it. They are about two people who are married, who live together, and yet over the period of 25 years that the books cover, there are almost no incidents common to both books. Their lives go along on dual-track. That's moving and sad, but also quite true to life."

Born in Georgia, Woodward is familiar with the sensibilities and the gentle oppression that governs the territory of the story. "I identify with Mrs Bridge in almost every way because there was nothing of Mrs Bridge that I hadn't experienced either directly or indirectly. I'm a feminist, but one who emerged from exactly Mrs Bridge's background, imbued with all the same attributes. To get through all of that — to be able to emerge and see yourself as a separate identity, as a woman — is like struggling out of molasses. It's part of the struggle of women of my generation, particularly those who were raised in societies like Mrs Bridge's."

Woodward is known never to talk about the mechanisms of her performances. "I wouldn't know how," she says with the directness that characterises her conversation and pricks at pretension. Nor does she discuss her films — largely because she rarely sees them, and then only "with my hands over my face. I don't like watching myself on screen. It's embarrassing."

Asked why, given her attitude, she remained in films for so long, she replies with disarmingly frankness. "Sheer stupidity. At the time I went into films it was the thing to do. I was

easily led. Also, I gained success very early, and that was seductive. Hollywood was much more important then. When you were under studio contract, as Paul and I were, you really made a life in films. In those days there was no theatre in California and it was hard to take the time off to come back east and do a play. I always envied English actors who could do both."

The Hollywood tribulations she describes have certainly not left their mark on her appearance: an elegant and energetic woman, she looks a good 20 years off the pensionable age that the record books give her. Yet her age was a significant factor in her decision to return to the stage. "When I got into my late forties I realised that there were not many parts for women in film that were interesting, so I preferred to go back to the stage, where they were. And now I'm really sorry I let so many years go by."

Now, with her own kind of elegant zeal, she has progressed from acting to directing and, more recently, writing for the medium that gives her the intellectual stimulation she missed during her screen career. Woodward also resumed the bachelor degree course she began in 1947 and abandoned when her theatre studies took over. She graduated last year and indicates her graduation photographs with pride. "I loved studying. I'm going back now to get a master's degree," she says, adding wistfully, "I'll probably be a hundred by the time I finish that."

● *Mr and Mrs Bridge*, which opens at the Curzon, Mayfair, on Friday, will be reviewed in The Times on Thursday

RECORDS: CLASSICAL

Packing a sting in the tale

RECORDINGS of Peter and the Wolf tend to be beset by the self-conscious, the condescending or the unavailably thespian in their narration. How refreshing, then, and just in time for Prokofiev's 100th birthday, to find this new recording with Sting offering robust, rough and ever-ready 26 minutes of tale-telling.

Sting's own subtly revised narration was child-vetted, as was Prokofiev's own original piano version of the piece, in which he was prevailed upon to play the concluding march three times over. It is tempting to get the laser to do exactly the same here, so rhythmically well sprung, so sharp and high-stepping is the Chamber Orchestra of Europe's performance of the final triumphant procession.

Abbado's pacing, like Sting's narration, is highly strung and witty; the finesse of the orchestral soloists provides a nice foil for the rough edges of Sting's voice. No detail goes unobserved. The shadow of irony behind Sting's comment that "boys like him are simply not afraid of wolves" is countered by the oboe's wry threnody at the tail (or feather?) end of the wolf's digestive processes.

The same soloists who made a pedigree Russian Rite of the clarinet-cut and a coiling tremolo for the violin, excel themselves in Prokofiev's 1934 chamber orchestra arrangement of the *Overture on Hebrew Themes*. The spirit of the original piano, clarinet and string quartet version glints through this amplification; with Stefan Vladar's piano dancing through its delicately balanced textures.

The Opus 99 March, clean as a whistle in its violin line and debonair trumpets, acts as curtain-raiser, and a gracious, glassy performance of the Classical Symphony as finale

Prokofiev: *Peter and the Wolf*. Chamber Orchestra of Europe/Abbado/Sting. DG 429 396-2. Prokofiev: *Classical Symphony*. London Music/Symphonion. Conifer CDCF 173. Prokofiev: *Piano Sonatas* Vol 3. John Lill. ASV CD DCA 755.



Sting: subtle narrator of *Peter and the Wolf*

to this outstanding celebratory release.

London Music's birthday offering cannot hope to compete in terms of sophistication: its *Hebrew Overture* is weighed down with schmaltz, its Classical Symphony robust but rough-hewn. Instead, this young chamber orchestra, under Mark Stephenson, adds to its already enterprising list of recorded rarities by presenting the unpredictable: a concerto which is really a sonata, and a solo masquerading as an ensemble.

dominating flute part, and has to contend with some muscular pizzicato chase, a frantic woodwind and percussion romp in the finale of this well-mannered orchestration. Prokofiev wrote his 1947 Sonatas for a group of unaccompanied violins in unison, but so winsome was it as a solo party piece that it is still seldom played in its original form. London Music give it a lusty, resonant premiere recording, sounding at times like a self-styled Soviet Strathpey society.

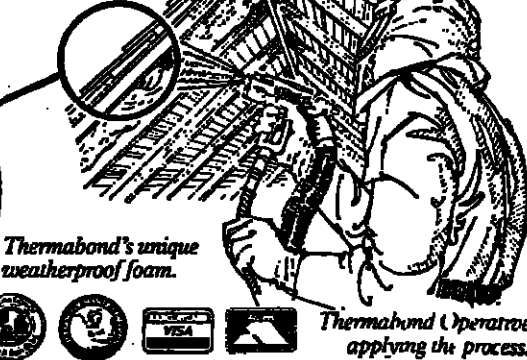
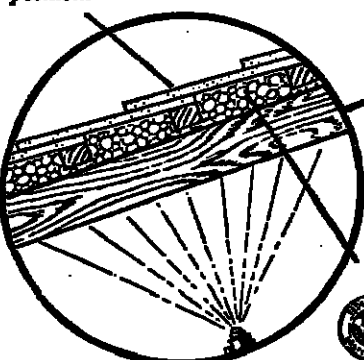
With Evgeny Kissin's outstanding and precocious performance of the first of Prokofiev's "war" sonatas still ringing in the ears, John Lill's recent recording of the Seventh and Eighth Sonatas, the remaining two of the trilogy, is in many ways something of an anticlimax. This third volume of his Prokofiev project, and particularly the Seventh Sonata, is low on that white brilliance of timbre, that peak of nervous and physical tension which made Sviatoslav Richter observe that this was indeed music "reflecting a world without reason or equilibrium". Lill's playing, though, is high on clarity and lucidity, and these, after all, were Prokofiev's two great self-confessed principles in his piano writing.

He works his way through the apparently formless but complex inner life of the Eighth Sonata's long first movement with a clear sighted and single-minded strength of finger and of mind. Still more at home in the post-war Ninth Sonata, Lill offers a firm line through its whimsical storytelling and reveals the wide-eyed Cinderella child in Prokofiev that surfaces so beguilingly in the Andante's *fauç-narveté*.

HILARY FINCH

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OPERA

Count Ory New, Cardiff

SINCE Rossini's French comedy is all about deceptive appearances, it may be that one should see this new Welsh National Opera production as a satire on the peculiarly English sort of smuttiness it puts on the stage.

But the invitations to irony are few, and one comes away with the dread feeling that the skimpy female costumes in black and pink, the chastity belts, the harmless nods at sado-masochism, the silly walks, the girl feather-dusting a male statue's private parts and the tubby fellow showing his suspenders all mean to be taken at face value. Certainly they were so taken by some elements in the audience, which meant that whole sections of the performance, particularly in Act II, carried a wake of guffaws and titters.

One had hoped for more than this Benny Hill style of humour from Aidan Lang as producer and Russell Craig as designer. But unfortunately the coarseness of the action and costuming (apart from a fresh harmony of pale

yellows, oranges and blues for the chorus in Act I) is matched by the cheap look of the set. The columnar tower is not an inappropriately phallic refuge for the Countess Adèle and her ladies, and the concentric stairways around it come into their own for Raimbaud's story about how he discovered the wine cellars (nicely sung by Peter Savidge), but the white tile-like decoration is shoddy, suggesting the work of a cowboy bathroom fitter.

The pleasures of the evening are, then, pretty well all musical, and they begin with a splendid realisation of the orchestral score under Carlo Rizzi: the sound is brilliantly sharp, with passages also of floating, serene sumptuousness, as in the introduction to Adèle's air in Act I. In a world not overstocked with conductors of the Italian repertoire, we are lucky to have Rizzi working so often in this country.

There are also some fine artists among the singers. Janice Watson as Adèle produces a tone of silver clarity and precision, and shows an exciting command of Rossinian ornament: she presents this confection of a part in great style. Bonaventura Bottone in the title role goes less for style than for comedy, though his leaps into the high register deserve some bravos,



Silver clarity: Janice Watson with Bonaventura Bottone

and he makes, as always, a congenial clown. Bernadette Cullen as Isolier offers a beautiful sound, at once rich and ardent, but as yet she is getting rather few of the words across (the opera is sung

in a new translation by Michael Irwin). Anne-Marie Owens is a formidable Ragone, Peter Rose a blustering Tutor.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

RADIO

Valentines from the Gulf/Strange Stories Radio 1/Radio 4

VENUS and Mars are a cute little combination, simultaneously embodying the two basic instincts and demonstrating that real women cannot resist a uniform, preferably off the shoulder. Having contributed munificently to the art galleries of the western world, these two characters took a further bow on Radio 1 last Thursday, when *Valentines from the Gulf* gave Simon Bates his latest chance to shine as the Forces' sweetheart, or at least Cupid. From a six-by-ten bunker "somewhere in the desert" and fast sitting up with sand, a hash of

easy listening and soldierly dedications was relayed to Britain and Germany by the most egregious disc-jockey since records began.

The dedications were a droning disappointment at nowhere a Fluffkins seldom a hint of the brutal and licentious. "I'd just like to say" was the order of the day, although surely this conspiracy was untutored, surely they had all got it innocently from prior exposure to Radio 1. What these bluff and genial uniforms wished to say was that they missed Dad/Mum/granddad/Kyle/baby Jesus and that they hoped to be home soon. That was it they were over there again, back in the figurative bosom. It was candid, pious and curiously unaffected. Rarely has so much emotion been expressed by so many with so few deviations

from the norm. It makes one wonder what the old myths have come to.

But then *Strange Stories* (Radio 4, Saturday) proposed that for every new verity a date-expired remnant still patrols his allotted pitch. We were in Ghost Town, Salop - more specifically, the Aerospace Museum at Cosforth where a certain Lincoln bomber has long been the object of paranormal inquiry. Despite being stripped of every vital facility - electricity, hydraulics, radio - RF328 is given to uttering gomic groans and blips, particularly in the presence of taut-voiced researchers equipped with tape recorders. The alleged ghost, true to form, was reported as having once turned an investigator's tape to spaghetti, although one must surmise that any genuine spook will have been thoroughly alarmed

to discover a pair of grown men sitting up in the middle of the night and trying to convince each other that they could see pin-pricks of light meandering through the cockpit.

Despite its ready submission to the twin dictates of the occult and the nostalgic, the programme was a genuine piece of radio. Tape-hiss is not heard anywhere near often enough: it lends "presence" where clean recording promotes sterility, and when that hiss is intermitted by thumps and shunts devoid of rational provenance, a measure of dramatic involvement has been achieved - even at the expense of risibility. The loudest inexplicable sound resembled nothing so much as a bearded disc-jockey trying to force his way out of a locked lavatory.

MARTIN CROPPER

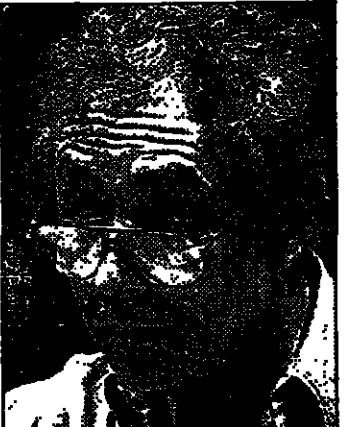
CONCERTS

RPO/Temirkanov Philharmonia/ Pesek/Del Mar Festival Hall

TO OBSERVE that the Royal Philharmonic's centenary celebration of Prokofiev is less ambitious and enlightening than many theme festivals of recent years is not new. The Third Piano Concerto, played at the fourth concert last week, is hardly a rarity; nor is the suite from *The Love of Three Oranges* exactly adventurous, coming in the wake of the ENO's triumphant runs of the opera.

But if the series as a whole is a missed opportunity, programmes like this one are still attractive. Dmitri Alexeev brought a steely-fingered agility to the solo part of the concerto, and was not found lacking when the work moved into its lyrical modes. In short, he had all the qualities needed for an ideal performance of the work.

The exotic orchestral colours and dynamism of the *Oranges* suite, as of that from Stravinsky's *Firebird*, were captured in the RPO's precise, vigorous playing. Yuri Temirkanov's rostrum style was self-effacing and to the point. One has to guard against the danger of being swayed by the absence of historicism, but it did appear that these were performance of honest but earthbound



Pesek: intense performance merits, rather than star quality.

Nobody could accuse the Philharmonia of unadventurous programming these days. On the following evening, in the same hall, they plucked two fascinating works - Martin's Double Concerto for two string orchestras, piano and timpani, and Bartók's Violin Concerto No. 1 - from relative obscurity, rounding off the concert with a Dvořák symphony. One could be forgiven for expecting one of that composer's last three - the popular ones - but instead we had the Sixth in D major, a delightful piece by any standards, and far too little played.

Both the Martin and the Bartók have what might be called a hidden agenda. The Czech composer Martin's Double Concerto was written in 1938, against the background of imminent Nazi

invasion of the homeland. Perhaps the modern resonances of gathering war clouds lent an edge to the intensity of this performance under Libor Pesek (the soloists were Leslie Pearson and Andrew Smith). Certainly the driving rhythms of the first movement had an anguish and urgency that made one wonder why the work is not heard more often.

Bartók's early concerto was written in the dying days of his short-lived love affair with the violinist Stef Geyer. It was written for her to play, and appears to contain allusions both to her and her relationship with the composer. Its idiom is Romantic, and the soloist, Augustin Dumay, standing in at short notice for Dmitry Sitkovetsky, brought a sweet-toned, introspective sensibility to bear.

Dvořák's Sixth recalls Brahms's Second in its outer movements, Beethoven's Ninth in its Adagio, and Bruckner in its Scherzo. Yet it is in no sense derivative - indeed Bruckner's last three symphonies post-date the Dvořák - and in its appealing energy and wealth of ideas, it has a character all its own. Pesek relished both the offset, inebriated swag of the Scherzo and the golden thread of melodic invention drawn out in the Adagio against a glowing background of unpredictable instrumental groupings. With advocacy like this, Dvořák's Sixth should before long be filling the Festival Hall as surely as its successors.

On Saturday, it was Libor Pesek

who had to be replaced, on account of illness, by Norman Del Mar. He took the Philharmonia, on good form, through a sprightly performance of Prokofiev's Classical Symphony, before being joined by the soprano Arleen Auger for Ravel's *Shéhérazade*. In the latter, Auger's breathless wonder in "Asia" and her languorous, seductive air in "L'Indifférent" were particularly enjoyable. Written in the heat of Ravel's passion for the music of Spain, she languidly floated the habanera rhythms through the sultry haze.

Del Mar's reading of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony was one that emphasised the work's humanity rather than its elemental aspects. Several unusually hashed passages were evocative, appropriately enough, of the expectant introduction to the Prisoners' Chorus in *Fidelio*, while the warm, luxuriant textures of the Allegretto had an almost tactile quality.

Del Mar showed that a steady tempo in the finale was no bar to exuberance. On the contrary, the violinists bit into their strings and worried away at their whirling semi-quavers like terriers. With the brass adding their whooping cries of triumph, this was an old-fashioned performance whose conservative tendencies turned out to be solid virtues, and whose vigour was all the more thrilling for deriving from inner strength.

BARRY MILLINGTON

NEW RELEASES

THE ADVENTURES OF FORD FARIANE (19): A hilarious comedy set in London and Ireland, indicated with the symbol (C) on release across the country.

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 18

EXONYM

(a) The name given to a place by foreigners, from the Greek *ek* "away" and *onyma* "name". London is an exonym of London, Florence is an exonym of Firenze, and Moscow is an exonym for the native name which may not be written because it can't be Russian.

EXON

(b) The ordinary title of the four officers of the Venetian of the Grand Council in their commissions, and ranking below the Doge, apparently a bad shot at pronouncing the French word "exon" which means "to be removed from office".

00 The Channel Four Daily. With the latest developments in the Gulf

...er. Also includes *Business Daily*, *Box Office* and *Early Bird*

25 **Schools**

05 **The Parliament Programme** presented by Sue Cameron

30 **Business Daily**, Financial and business news service

00 **Sesame Street**, Educational fun for pre-school children

00 **Film: The Unseen (1945, b/w)** An enthralling chiller about a young girl (Gail Russell) who comes to a mysterious home to work as a governess for the two young children of a widower (Joel McCrea). Once there she is drawn into a web of murder and suspense

Directed by Lewis Allen 3.30 **Flurings**, Animated version of a Swiss children's story

45 **Third Wave**, The series for older viewers takes a trip to America and explores attitudes towards senior citizens there. For many of the over-55s, the American dream has come true and they have become a force to be reckoned with, wielding enormous economic and political strength (Teletext)

00 **Countdown**, Words and numbers game hosted by Richard Whiteley


00 **Booni Magazine** programme for children and teenagers with special needs. In this programme Andrew Miller entices the aid of local children to help him explore Glasgow and Jane Partee is joined by gardening expert Nick Blysoe who helps her plan a wildlife pond. Plus music from the first contestants in the *Booni* music awards

30 **Same Difference**, A new series of the highly successful magazine programme, which takes a topical look at the facts of life for the five million disabled people in Britain. Presented by Libby Cross

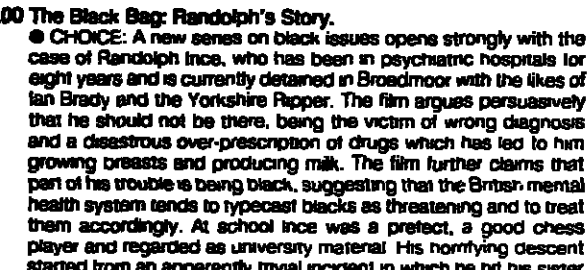
00 **Just**, Romantic sitcom set in Los Angeles

30 **Remake Control**, British version of the MTV hit comedy quiz show, which is both raucous and bizarre. Hosted by Anthony H. Wilson with Frank Sidebottom

00 **Channel 4 News**, (Teletext)



Their son is in Broadmoor: Rudolph and Rita Ince (8.00pm)



with a belt. He is now 30 and despite two reports highly critical of

His treatment seems trapped in the system for ever

9 **Nature's Wrath: Champs In Crisis**, in this new series of the natural history programme the spotlight falls on man's closest relative in the animal kingdom – the chimpanzee – and investigates how the bloodline between these animals and humans is instrumental in the chase they now face

30 **Without Walls: For Love Or Money**, in this regular peek behind the scenes of the market, Merton Ward-Jackson looks at the auction of valuable works of art in the aftermath of Polly Peck's collapse. There is also advice for those benefiting from the collapse in the contemporary art market; a report on art in the garden and how to prevent it from being stolen, and Mare Helvin discovers that there are still bargains to be found in the jewellery market if you know where to look for

30 **Europeans: The Moving Picture** This week's European police drama features Spain's Inspector Crespo who is investigating the murder of a glamorous chorus girl

30 **The Oprah Winfrey Show** The queen of the audience chat show receives two late-night slots to add to the afternoon extravaganzas, allowing her to discuss adult topics such as, in this case, the most recent developments in the gay rights debate

30 **Channel 4 News – Midnight Special** The latest news, developments, analysis and speculation from the Gulf. Ends at 2.00am

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00 U2 Parole and Murn (1988) The Irish
gang filmed during their 1987 tour of

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THES

TIMES HIGHER
EDUCATION
SUPPLEMENT

Supreme Soviet stunned by call for price rises of 60%

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE Soviet prime minister, Valentin Pavlov, said yesterday that retail prices would have to rise on average by 60 per cent across the board if the Soviet economy was not to run out of money. However, he promised substantial compensation for all sections of the population to cushion the blow.

The prime minister was giving details of the country's long-dreaded price reforms to the Soviet parliament, which was stunned into silence by the very idea that they would eventually have to approve such unpopular measures.

Mr Pavlov confirmed that the government intended to introduce three categories of pricing: fixed state prices remaining at current levels; regulated prices for which a maximum would be set by the state; and prices "negotiated" between wholesalers and retailers.

Almost one-third of all goods on sale will fall into the last category, including many consumer durables. Most forms of energy — gas, electricity, petrol and paraffin — will remain at their current, low prices, as will most synthetic textiles and toys.

For reasons which were not explained, coffee and vodka will also stay at present prices. The news that vodka would be exempt from any increase caused gasps of amazement and mumbled objections from deputies. Mr Pavlov alluded to the amount of money vodka already provided for the central exchequer and the risk that people would turn to samogon — "moonshine" — if it became too expensive, as they had during the anti-alcohol campaign five years ago.

Prices of most basic foods, including milk, meat, bread and eggs, would continue to be subsidised by the state, but the subsidies will be reduced on average by two-thirds, to the point where the food sector as a whole was no longer making a loss.

According to the prime minister, most people should be compensated for 85 per cent of the increases in the form of higher wages, pensions or allowances and a higher basic tax threshold.

Although the prime minister implied that most food and basic consumer durables would be subject to hefty price rises, he did not state either the amount or timing of the increases, saying only that food subsidies would be cut on average by two-thirds. The price of meat, milk and eggs, for instance, is expected to triple. For meat, this would mean a jump from 2.50 roubles a kilo (2.2lb) to 7.50 roubles a kilo, equivalent to £7.50 at the official exchange rate.

Property tax favoured by Heseltine

Continued from page 1

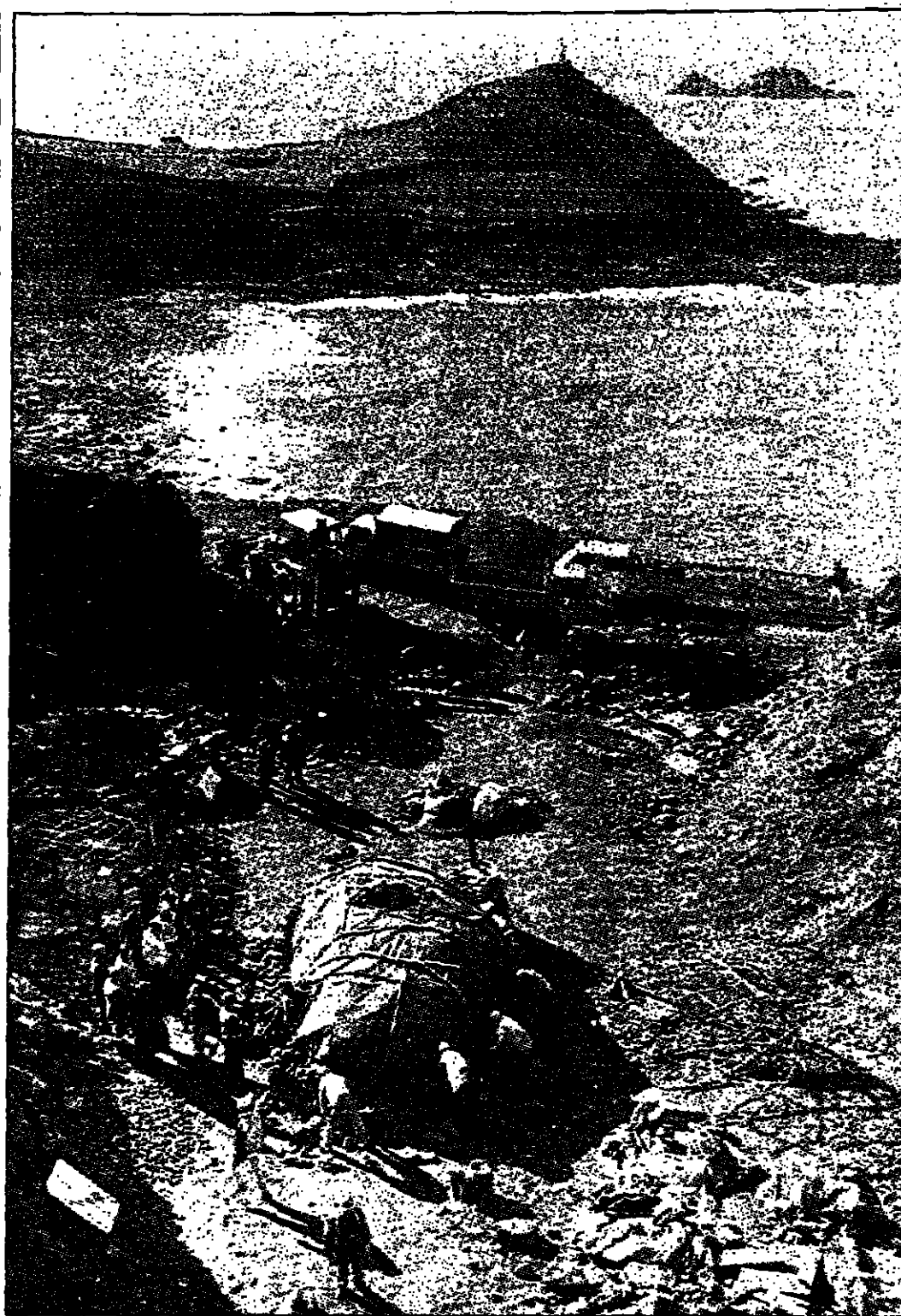
notional rental values of the old rates system. Its most novel feature, however, is the way it seeks to retain the principle of the community charge — that everyone should contribute towards local services. One widely canvassed option has been to introduce a separate flat-rate charge of around £100 payable by everyone to run alongside a property tax. This has been rejected.

Mr Heseltine's proposed tax would be levied in accordance with the area of a house or flat, but the final bill would contain a relatively modest "personal premium", adjusting the charge in line with the number of adults in a household.

The new property tax will, it is understood, be levied in three or four bands. Typically, the charge for a single person's flat could be £150, for a three-bedroom house £250, and £400 for a country mansion. The personal premium would increase these figures, by £100 for a single person in a flat and £200 for a couple in a three-bedroom semi. Unlike the poll tax the new property tax will be levied on property owners and not individuals. It will be up to owners to recover personal premiums from his housemates.



Pavlov: all prices to rise steeply but not of vodka



Council workers demolishing one of several "bender" houses, canvas-covered round houses, built by travellers at Kenidjack Quarry, near St Just, Cornwall. The 20-strong group of travellers vanished yesterday shortly before their homes were bulldozed, leaving in several old coaches.

Birmingham Six hearing delayed

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A 10-HOUR interview with the police officer who led the enquiry into the 1974 Birmingham pub bombings led yesterday to a two-week delay in the Birmingham Six appeal hearing.

Lawyers told a preliminary hearing at the Court of Appeal that they needed the time to assess the interview conducted in Australia with George Reading, a retired detective superintendent, by John Evans, chief constable of the Devon and Cornwall police.

Graham Boal, counsel for the Director of Public Prosecutions, told the hearing that he had

received the transcript of the "very important interview" only the night before and it was too early to say whether the Crown would rely on the evidence of the officer and others involved in the enquiry.

A further preliminary hearing might be held next week if Mr Boal decides not to rely on the credibility of police officers in the case. Mr Boal, who has already made it clear that the DPP no longer intends to rely on scientific evidence against the men, said that the DPP was anxious to answer "as soon as possible" the

question, repeatedly asked by the appellants, of whether he intended to rely on the credibility of officers, and in particular the integrity of Mr Reading.

"My considered view, for which I take personal responsibility, is that we cannot properly advise the DPP until we have had the opportunity to consider that transcript in the context of the whole of the rest of the investigation," he said.

Michael Mansfield, QC, who is representing five of the six appellants, said that he was extremely anxious about the delay.

Political sketch

Peers at full gallop in maiden stakes

THE upper chamber discussed two subjects on which their lordships speak with both passion and authority: rural failure and horse-racing. Rural failure came first. Apparently there is a drug which can help, but it is very expensive. One after another, peers rose to demand that it be made available to the NHS. There was near-total unanimity, their lordships' view being "hang the expense". Lady Hooper, a timid but knowledgeable department minister, suffered a severe roughing up from a posse of impassioned old codgers.

Then we moved on to a debate about horses. Onlookers such as me — untitled, horseless and minitiated in the mystery of the tote — felt ourselves privileged to observe the closest thing these islands produce to a sort of emine mafia, expatiating on a subject...

"Close to my heart" as the Duke of Roxburghe put it. It is common with a number of other peers, this was a maiden speech. Starting with a genial little joke comparing himself with a two-year-old horse on its first nervous canter around the track, he declared his interest. He owned Kelso racecourse. Far from being abashed by their vested interests, their lordships were inclined to boast of them. One began to feel that one would hesitate to speak in this debate if one did not own a racecourse. Lord Donoughue (opening the debate) apologised for owning no more than a horse or two, but a "lifelong love affair with racing" had been encouraged by time spent at "Lord Heseltine's excellent racecourse".

Lord Heseltine turned out to be the industry minister handling the issue. His racecourse was Towcester.

The Marquess of Zetland ("chairman and managing director of one racecourse, and director of two others") in another maiden speech, spoke movingly of the "them and us" society. "Them" — the Australia, American and French racing industry — enjoyed privileges at

which "us" in Britain, a "once proud nation", could only gaze in envy.

The marquess reminded us (as did most of their lordships) that owners make a loss. It struck a few of us that owners of fast cars or fast women also make a loss on their investments but find few to argue for them in the House of Lords. "It's a rum world," observed Lord Donoughue. Ownership of horses, said the Earl of Carnarvon, is "treated like a hobby", for tax purposes. His voice trembled with indignation. Racing suggested that peer after peer was in crisis.

The House paused to hear a statement on another crisis — the Gulf war. Then back to the real crisis.

Lord Plummer (a former chairman of the Horse Race Betting Levy Board) complimented the Duke of Roxburghe on his speech. "It reminded me of my most enjoyable visit to Kelso."

Lord Whitelaw's speech can be summarised. "Everyone must get together in a spirit of compromise and decide what to propose. Then they should go to the home secretary and tell him. He should deal with the matter personally. I did, when I was home secretary."

Thank Heavens, then, for the Duke of Devonshire, the father of the senior steward of the Jockey Club and owner of a little modest horseflesh himself. Racing was "the sport of kings", he said, or "due to an unfortunate use of the English language", the sport "of female monarchs".

"I'm afraid what I am going to say will probably be incoherent. But His Grace launched into a sparkling speech which was very coherent indeed. He teased horse owners for supposing their hobby ought to pay. Yacht-owners, he pointed out, never advanced this argument. Horse ownership was 'for the fun of it. It's meant to be fun.' But enough of my philosophy..."

MATTHEW PARRIS

Allied push goes ahead

Continued from page 1

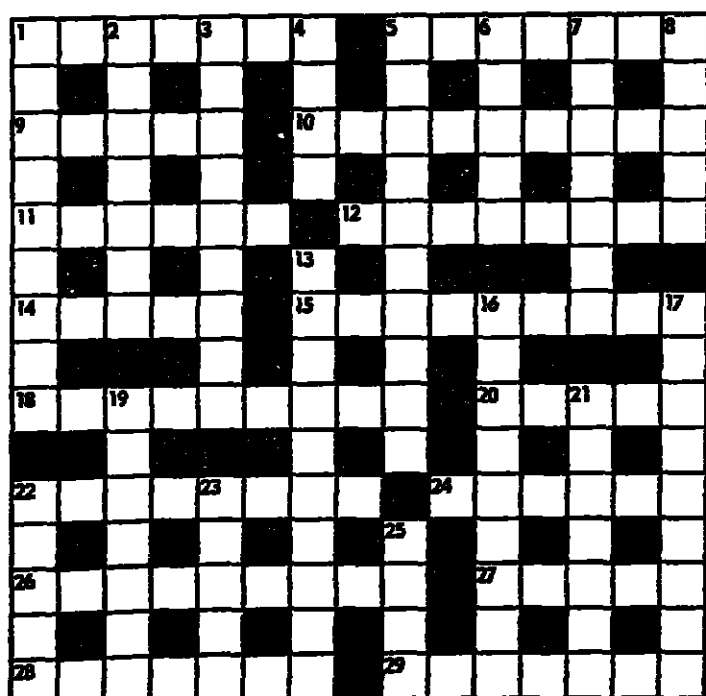
President Gorbachev's special envoy, and Mr Ignatiev yesterday insisted that any settlement must begin with the unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait.

Thereafter, Moscow may have seen its task in sifting the elements of Iraq's "programme" for withdrawal, both to eliminate the requirements which were clearly unacceptable to the anti-Iraq coalition — like the change of regime in Kuwait — and those

which might become negotiable once Iraqi forces were safely back inside Iraqi territory. These would include a settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute and the withdrawal of foreign forces from the Gulf region.

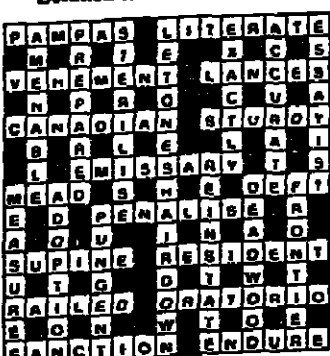
Moscow's objective is to convince Iraq that sufficient of its demands would be met to make a withdrawal worthwhile, while at the same time convincing the anti-Iraq coalition that Iraq would not gain from its original aggression.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,533



- ACROSS**
- Yellow quarry outside Slough (7).
 - Killer is out of puff from boasting (7).
 - Out-and-out Tory (5).
 - Writer, craftsman or mighty man (9).
 - Lucifer caught out could be angry (6).
 - In Ceres, a poor person to whom property was transferred (8).
 - Hard money — a lot of it — needed for this weapon (1-4).
 - The torment of faithful witnesses (9).
 - "The Globe" is on time every day (4-5).
 - Standards possessed by Miss Maylie we hear (5).
 - Contemptible way to retract quote (8).

Solutions to Puzzle No 18,532



- DOWN**
- Innocently in the manner of Yum Yum (9).
 - Bright spark here gives an attractive piece a ring (7).
 - Overwhelm by showing the fall of wickets (9).
 - Cox toy off the privet with the sharp side (4).
 - Rail coping with posts? (10).
 - Extremely musical (5).
 - Dressed leading model (7).
 - Paint church in Oregon (5).
 - Explosive support in argument (10).
 - Standard truncheon for policeman? (9).
 - Delusion makes me fib and lie about Society (9).
 - Appeal appearing in a pamphlet, say (7).
 - No loan for one below, perhaps (7).
 - A gentle stroke I love in court (5).
 - Viewing for instance holding the negative (5).
 - One command for Madame Defarge say (4).

Concise Crossword, page 13

WEATHER

Most of the country will start dry with a few mist or fog patches, clearing quite quickly. Cloud and rain in the extreme northwest of Scotland will spread southeast to reach much of northern England and all of Scotland and Northern Ireland by midnight. Southern and eastern parts of England and Wales will remain dry with well broken cloud. Windy in the north with gales around the coast. Outlook: staying unsettled

ABROAD

Midday	Thunder	Drizzle	Light	Sunny	Cloud	Other
Algeria	15	15	15	15	15	15
Alexandria	15	15	15	15	15	15
Athens	15	15	15	15	15	15
Bombay	15	15	15	15	15	15
Buenos Aires	15	15	15	15	15	15
Calcutta	15	15	15	15	15	15
Cairo	15	15	15	15	15	15
Colon	15	15	15	15	15	15
Hong Kong	15	15	15	15	15	15
London	15	15	15	15	15	15
Madras	15	15	15	15	15	15
Mumbai	15	15	15	15	15	15
Paris	15	15	15	15	15	15
Rangoon	15	15	15	15	15	15
Shanghai	15	15	15	15	15	15
Singapore	15	15	15	15	15	15
Tokyo	15	15	15	15	15	15
Yokohama	15	15	15	15	15	15

* Detailed figures are latest available

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Sunday: Highest day temp. Seaton Sands, Devon, 8C (46F); lowest day temp. Exmouth, Devon, 5C (41F); highest night temp. Wexham, 20C (68F); lowest night temp. Seaton Sands, 9.2C (48.6F).

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp. max 8am to 6pm, 7C (45F); min 6pm to 6am, 3C (37F). Humidity 6pm, 75 per cent. Rain 24hr to 6pm, trace. Sun 24hr to 6pm, 1.4 hr. Bar. Mean sea level, 6 pm, 1.0165 metres, rising.

GLASGOW

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Midday	Thunder	Drizzle	Light	Sunny	Cloud	Other
Abandon	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
Algeria	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
Alexandria	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
Athens	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
Bombay	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
Buenos Aires	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
Calcutta	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
Cairo	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
Colon	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
Hong Kong	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
London	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
Madras	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
Mumbai	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
Paris	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
Rangoon	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
Shanghai	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
Singapore	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
Tokyo	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
Yokohama	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8

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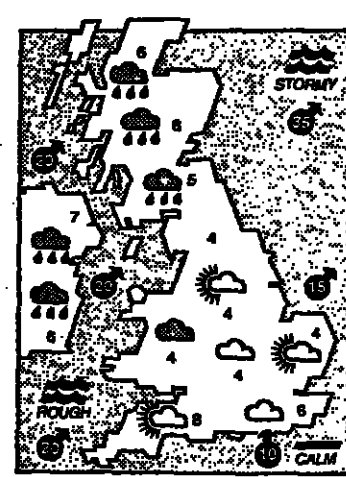
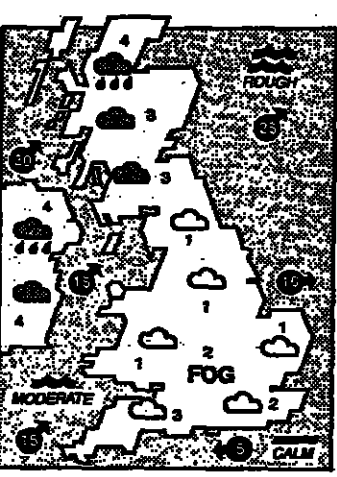
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Temperatures at midday yesterday: c. cloud, f.

Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	4.3	4.3	London	4.3	4.3
Birmingham	4.3	4.3	Birmingham	4.3	4.3
Manchester	4.3	4.3	Manchester	4.3	4.3
Edinburgh	4.3	4.3	Edinburgh	4.3	4.3
Glasgow	4.3	4.3	Glasgow	4.3	4.3

London 5.22 pm to 7.05 am

Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	4.3	4.3	London	4.3	4.3
Birmingham	4.3	4.3	Birmingham	4.3	4.3
Manchester	4.3	4.3	Manchester	4.3	4.3
Edinburgh	4.3	4.3	Edinburgh	4.3	4.3
Glasgow	4.3	4.3	Glasgow	4.3	4.3

Today: AM HT PM HT

Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	4.3	4.3	London	4.3	4.3
Birmingham	4.3	4.3	Birmingham	4.3	4.3
Manchester	4.3	4.3	Manchester	4.3	4.3
Edinburgh	4.3	4.3	Edinburgh	4.3	4.3
Glasgow	4.3	4.3	Glasgow	4.3	4.3

Today: AM HT PM HT

Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	4.3	4.3	London	4.3	4.3
Birmingham	4.3	4.3	Birmingham	4.3	4.3
Manchester	4.3	4.3	Manchester	4.3	4.3
Edinburgh	4.3	4.3	Edinburgh	4.3	4.3
Glasgow	4.3	4.3	Glasgow	4.3	4.3

These are Sunday's figures

FOR THE LATEST REGION BY REGION FORECAST, 24 HOURS A DAY, DIAL 0836 500 FOLLOWED BY THE APPROPRIATE CODE.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Devon & Cornwall	703
Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon	704
Berkshire, Bucks, Oxon	705
Bedfordshire & Herts	706
Northampton, Cambs	707
West Mid & 5th Glam & Gwent	708
Shropshire, Merseyside & Wirral	709
Central Lancashire	710
East Lancashire	711
Lincoln & Humberside	712
Dyfed & Pembroys	713
Gloucestershire & Wiltshire	714
N & W England	715
N & S Yorks & Wales	716
N & E England	717
Cumbria & Lake District	718
N & W Scotland	719
W Central Scotland	720
Edin & Fife, Lothian & Borders	721
E Central Scotland	722
Grampian & E Highlands	723
N & W Scotland	724
Caithness, Orkney & Shetland	725
N Ireland	726

Weatherfax is charged at 33p per minute (cheapest rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

Information supplied by Met Office



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● SPORT 30-34

BUSINESS

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 19 1991

Business Editor
John Bell

Court rules on Clowes

THE government has recovered some of the £150 million it has paid to compensate investors in Barlow Clowes, which collapsed in 1988 owing about £190 million.

A judgment in the High Court ruled that £550,000 should be paid to the government by A C D Miller, a firm of chartered accountants in Fareham, Hampshire, who acted as a financial adviser and whose clients suffered losses when Barlow Clowes crashed.

Quoted UK falls

Quoted UK, the aggregate of quoted companies monitored by Hoare Govett, the securities house, reports pre-tax profits falling last year.

Reaching the parts, page 21

FII slides

FII Group, the footwear and scientific group, was hit by exchange rate movements in the six months to end-November. Pre-tax profits eased from £4.02 million to £3.7 million. Discounting last year's special 1p payment, the interim dividend rises to 5p a share (4p).

Ashtead hit

Pre-tax profits fell to £2.51 million (£3.64 million) in the six months to end-October at Ashtead Group, the plant hire firm. The interim dividend is raised from 1p to 1.1p.

Tempus, page 21

Barrett warns

Shares in Henry Barrett, the steel and industrial products company, dropped 11p to 81p, after a profits warning for the year to end-August.

Tempus, page 21

Sales figures confirm gloom in high street

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

RETAIL spending continued to fall in January, but the picture of unremitting gloom in Britain's high streets was partly relieved by an upward revision in December sales figures.

These suggested retailers enjoyed at least a considerable boost by bringing forward the discounting which normally begins in the New Year.

However, there was some unexpectedly good news from the government on the public sector borrowing figures also released yesterday. These showed an unexpectedly large surplus of £5 billion in the public sector accounts during January and suggested that the Treasury might well be able to hit the target of a £3 billion public sector debt repayment for the present financial year.

But government officials gave a warning that the 1991-2 financial year, beginning in April, would almost certainly see a sharp swing into deficit in the government's budget.

The abrupt slowdown in the economy since the summer had not yet impinged fully on the government's tax and spending figures, they said. By the time the impact of recession had fully worked through the government's accounts, a public sector borrowing requirement of £10 billion was quite possible, even

without any discretionary tax cuts or increases in public spending, they said. The January borrowing figures, which showed a very sharp increase in inland Revenue tax payments, reflected corporate taxes on profits earned in early 1990, before the recession, they said. Inland Revenue receipts in January came to £13.96 billion, compared with £12.97 billion a year earlier. By contrast Customs and Excise receipts, which are more directly related to current business activity, showed a fall to £3.73 billion from £3.99 billion in January last year.

On retail sales, the Central Statistical Office reported that sales volumes in January fell by a provisional 1.4 per cent, after rising 1.7 per cent in December. The index of retail sales volumes stood at 120.8 in January, 1.1 per cent below its level a year earlier, but still above the recession low point of November last year. Looking at three month averages, which are considered a better guide to underlying trends than the erratic monthly figures, government statisticians said retail sales volumes were 1 per cent lower than a year earlier and 1/2 per cent down on the August to October period.

The retail sales figures were described as disappointing by shopkeepers and economists, because they showed that shops were failing to tempt customers with record price cuts in the January sales. Last week's retail price figures revealed the biggest price reduction for household goods in January since records started in 1956 as shops tried desperately to woo customers. Prices for clothing and footwear plunged by their sharpest amount for 70 years, said the CSO. The value of retail sales was up by 5 per cent on a year earlier, a disappointingly small figure, given that retail price inflation has been running at over 9 per cent. Private economists had expected the January retail sales data to show a drop, but the 1.4 per cent fall was above their general 1.2 per cent forecast.

"These figures show the economy is still contracting and at quite a rapid rate," said Simon Knapp, economist at Barclays de Zoete Wedd. The difficulties facing retailers was underlined by a Confederation of British Industry survey released yesterday which showed retailers recorded their first drop in January business on an annual basis since the poll began in 1983.

The Retail Consortium, the trade organisation, said today's CSO figures painted a far rosier picture than applied in many sectors. Spanish banking licence. Sir Campbell, aged 68, is leaving two years before the bank's retirement age. "I have an inward worry about an institution having the same chairman for too long. One doesn't want people going round saying he's past it. I had done the job long enough."

A former director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, Sir Campbell joined Abbey in 1976 and has been chairman for 12 years. He said his greatest moment at the bank was the group's 1989 stock-market flotation. As a commissioner from 1977 to 1985, Sir Christopher

was in charge of the European Community budget and financial institutions. He was also an MP and a *Financial Times* journalist. At the CAA, he has championed the need for more investment in air transport and the deregulation of airport landing rights. He will remain chairman of the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

Sir Christopher is the second NatWest director to join Abbey since its flotation. Charles Villiers, who left NatWest after the Blue Arrow affair, is the bank's Abbey's business development director.



Another top post: Christopher Tugendhat, who is to become the chairman of Abbey

Abbey appoints Tugendhat

By OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SIR Christopher Tugendhat, chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority, is to become chairman of Abbey National after Sir Campbell Adamson retires at the end of June.

The arrival of Sir Christopher, who is also deputy chairman of National Westminster Bank, could herald the start of concerted European expansion by Abbey.

Sir Christopher, a former European commissioner, was recommended by Sir Campbell as his successor. Sir Campbell said his successor's European experience will come in useful at Abbey, which has just been granted a

Spanish banking licence. Sir Campbell, aged 68, is leaving two years before the bank's retirement age. "I have an inward worry about an institution having the same chairman for too long. One doesn't want people going round saying he's past it. I had done the job long enough."

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The company said it had reviewed the carrying value of its joint venture property developments and, as a result, would be making provisions against some of the developments in last year's accounts. Turriff anticipates the elimination of the group's trading profit and a pre-tax loss of £1 million for the year to end-December.

The company has identified areas of potential cash savings and intends to repay a £2 million pension fund surplus to the group. Turriff made interim pre-tax profits of £1.65 million last year.

Turriff shares plunge

By OUR CITY STAFF

SHARES in Turriff Corporation, the plant hire and construction group, fell 29p to 95p after it said that it made a loss last year and would not be paying a final dividend.

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City Gate Estates and Alpha collapse

By MATTHEW BOND

THE collapse in commercial property values has claimed its first significant overseas victim, with City Gate Estates going into administration.

City Gate was taken over last year by Accura, a Swedish investment company, run by Frederik Gyllenhammar, in a £22 million agreed deal.

The property company's problem is, however, that it is owed more than £16 million by Heathmount Investments, the buyer of a completed office development in Hammer-smith, west London.

Phil Wallace and Tim Hayward of KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, the administrators, will take legal action against Heathmount Investments and Pharos Holdings, the Saudi-backed company that guaranteed the deal. The sale was agreed in 1988.

The administrators are confident of recovering the money. If successful, City Gate will have £35 million of assets, a sum broadly matching its liabilities.

City Gate was set up in 1985 under the Business Expansion Scheme.

James Gulliver, chairman, and Andrew de Candole, managing director, brought the company to the Unlisted Securities Market in 1988.

Less than two years after Alpha Estates arrived on the USM, the Sheffield commercial property developer has gone into receivership. Alpha came to the market through a share placing at 75p a share. The shares were suspended yesterday at 5p.

Opec members seek quotas

By MARTIN BARROW

OIL price weakness has prompted several members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) to renew calls for production quotas to be restored to stabilise the market.

Indonesia and Algeria, whose oil minister, Sadek Boussena, is president of Opec, want to summon members to a special meeting to discuss ways of removing an oil surplus in an effort to force crude back up to Opec's reference price of \$21 a barrel. Their calls, however, are likely to be ignored without the support of Saudi Arabia, which produces a third of Opec's output. Mr Boussena's call for a meeting next Monday has received a cool response and Opec's next scheduled meeting is on March 11.

Oil analysts, most of whom wrongly forecast a sharp increase in prices on the outbreak of war in the Gulf, are reluctant to make predictions about the impact of peace on the market. None the less, most expect further weakness as Western nations release oil that was stockpiled to soften the impact of damage to Saudi oil installations.

This threat has alarmed smaller Opec producers, who are already pumping as much oil as they can. Indonesia has been able to increase production by only 150,000 barrels per day since its official quota of 1.51 million was suspended in response to the loss of oil from Iraq and Kuwait. Algeria's present capacity is no higher than its quota of 800,000 bpd.

By contrast, Saudi Arabia has increased output from 5.4 million bpd to more than 8 million bpd and, with Iraq and Kuwait offshore, is in a stronger position than usual to dictate Opec's next move. Unless fighting has ended, the next meeting is likely to focus on monitoring the market and assessing stock levels.

North Sea Brent for delivery in April fell 29 cents to below \$17 a barrel again yesterday. The day's low was \$16.45.

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Capital stake sold

By MARTIN WALLER

HAVAS, the French advertising agency, will control a 20.6 per cent stake in Capital Radio, the London radio station, under a deal being arranged by an investment manager of three Capital directors.

David Maule-finch, founder and board member, has bought the 4.6 per cent stake in Capital formerly held by

Owen Oyston, the media magnate who runs Trans World Communications, through his Dominant Investments, where two other directors have interests and which already holds 16 per cent. Havas is in talks to acquire 51 per cent of Dominant, and Mr Maule-finch has agreed to sell the Oyston stake to the French if that deal does not go ahead.

Chairman criticised for not telling unions first

Staff protest at Barclays job cuts

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SIR John Quinlan, chairman of Barclays Bank, has provoked a protest after he revealed news of up to 17,000 job losses before informing the staff.

Sir John's announcement that the bank is planning to cut 15 to 20 per cent of its workforce in the next five years came as a complete surprise to most in the bank as well as officials at the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union (Bifu).

John Brawley, an assistant secretary who handles negotiations with Barclays, said he was angered by the news. "This has come right out of the blue for us and the bank's central personnel department. The captain and the navigator have lost sight of their objectives and they are throwing the crew overboard instead. They seem to have decided they can run the bank without its staff," he said. Mr Brawley said he did not believe the

bank could make the cuts without compulsory redundancies. A bank spokeswoman said most would be through natural wastage but did not rule out redundancies.

Other banks, including TSB and Midland, have warned Bifu leaders before announcing staff cuts. Barclays, unlike other banks, has in the past refused to sign a security of employment agreement with Bifu. These agreements guarantee that redundancies are kept to a minimum in any cutbacks.

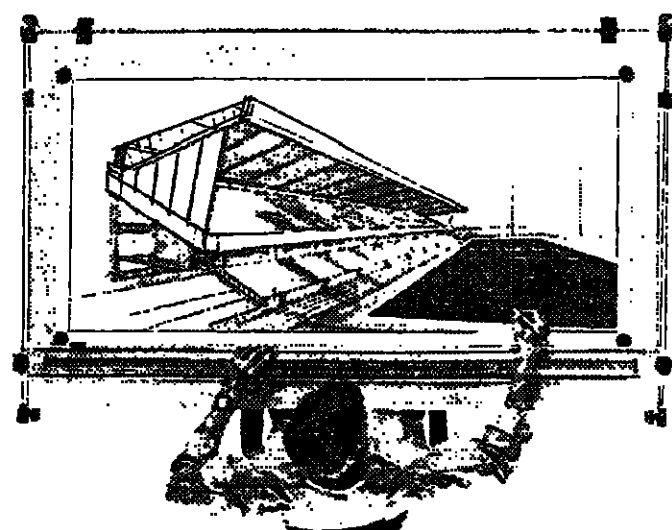
The International Stock Exchange said there had been no complaints about Sir John's announcement even though he also played down hopes of a large dividend increase ten days before the bank's preliminary figures. The exchange's continuing obligations department normally rebukes companies in private if it believes they have informally released price-sensitive information. The news of job losses, in a newspaper

interview, could not have come at a more sensitive time for Barclays, since Bifu leaders were yesterday due to meet bank executives to discuss the bank's 7 per cent pay offer.

The meeting has been postponed until today due to the traffic disruption in London caused by the closure of all the mainline stations.

Bifu, which represents 17,000 Barclays' employees, has rejected the pay offer and is claiming 14 per cent. The union has now asked the bank to include jobs in the negotiations. "The bank is deliberately linking pay to jobs and is scaremongering among its staff," said Mr Brawley. He gave a warning that unless the bank was flexible in the negotiations he would have to advise Bifu members on what action they should take. The Barclays' spokeswoman said the offer was not negotiable.

The pen is mightier than the fire extinguisher.



Some of the best fire fighting happens long before there's a fire to fight. On the drawing board.

British Steel has been involved at this stage for several years now.

Testing steel-framed structures in all kinds of fire. Passing the results to engineers, architects and the relevant authorities. And advising on plans at the design stage.

(We've made safety recommendations on new stands at Murrayfield and Twickenham, to name just two.)

We're happy to help.

Because the more thinking that goes on before the unthinkable happens, the more chance there is of controlling the consequences.



British Steel: adding value

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. (Game rules appear on the back of your card.)

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Whitman	Industrial S-Z	
2	DAKS Simpson A'	Drugs/Stores	
3	Dela	Electronics	
4	Woolley	Industrial S-Z	
5	McLeod Russel	Industrial S-Z	
6	Channing (W)	Chemicals/Pet	
7	Wells & Hill	Oil/Gas	
8	Shell	Oil/Gas	
9	Uet Biscuits	Food	
10	Borden	Electronics	
11	Walsham & D	Insurance	
12	Charles Int	Industrial A-D	
13	Utd Newspaper	Newspapers/Pub	
14	Cadbury Schwe	Food	
15	McKay Sea	Property	
16	Bur & WA 'A'	Leisure	
17	Bowthorpe	Industrial S-Z	
18	P & O Ltd	Transport	
19	Gr Portland	Property	
20	Glaxo Sm	Food	
21	Leeds (P)	Building/Roads	
22	Colclough	Transport	
23	De La Rue	Industrial A-D	
24	Allied Text	Textiles	
25	Rawlley Sidsy	Industrial S-Z	
26	Belical Bar	Property	
27	Wellcome	Industrial S-Z	
28	Typhook	Transport	
29	BET Ord	Industrial A-D	
30	Medway	Industrial S-Z	
31	Comet	Building/Roads	
32	Comet (H)	Transport	
33	Paradise Dairies	Food	
34	Ludlow	Food/Chemicals	
35	Pearson	Newspapers/Pub	
36	Nat Am Bk	Bank/Finance	
37	Townhill	Electronics	
38	Kleinwort Benson	Bank/Finance	
39	Vale	Electronics	
40	Perpetuum	Building/Roads	
41	Primrose Foods	Food/Chemicals	
42	Quinn Meat	Food/Chemicals	
43	Thames Pl	Bank/Finance	
44	Allied Irish	Bank/Finance	
45	Glaxo Sm	Food	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Total

The winner of the £6,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday was Mrs Brenda Boulton, of Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire.

BRITISH FUNDS

Share	High	Low	Open	Close
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SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Share	High	Low	Open	Close
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FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

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OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

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UNDATED

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INDEX-LINKED

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BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

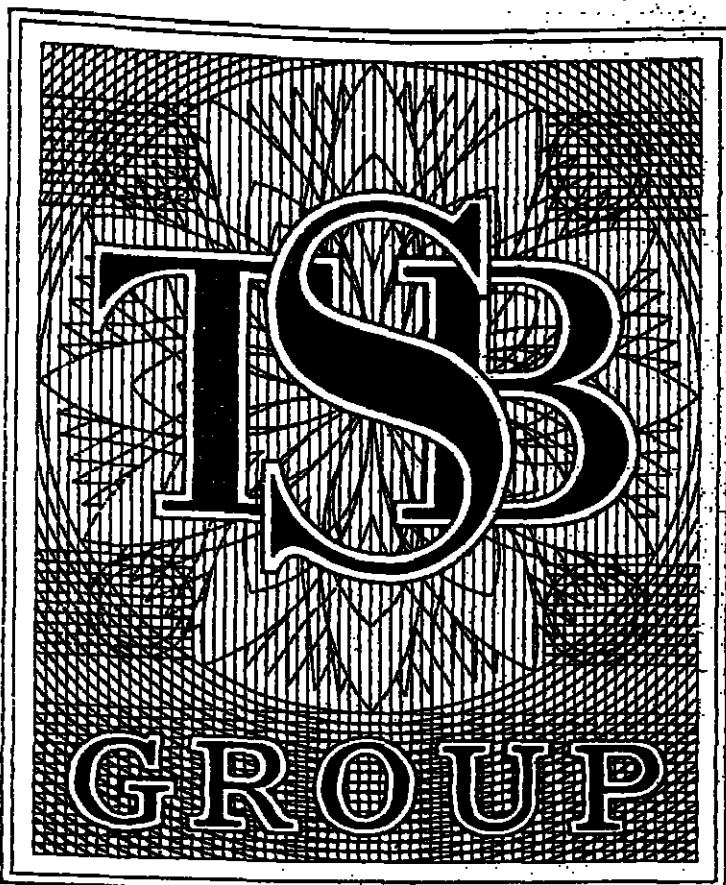
Shares close below best

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begin February 11. Dealings end on Friday. Contango day is Monday. Settlement day March 4. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

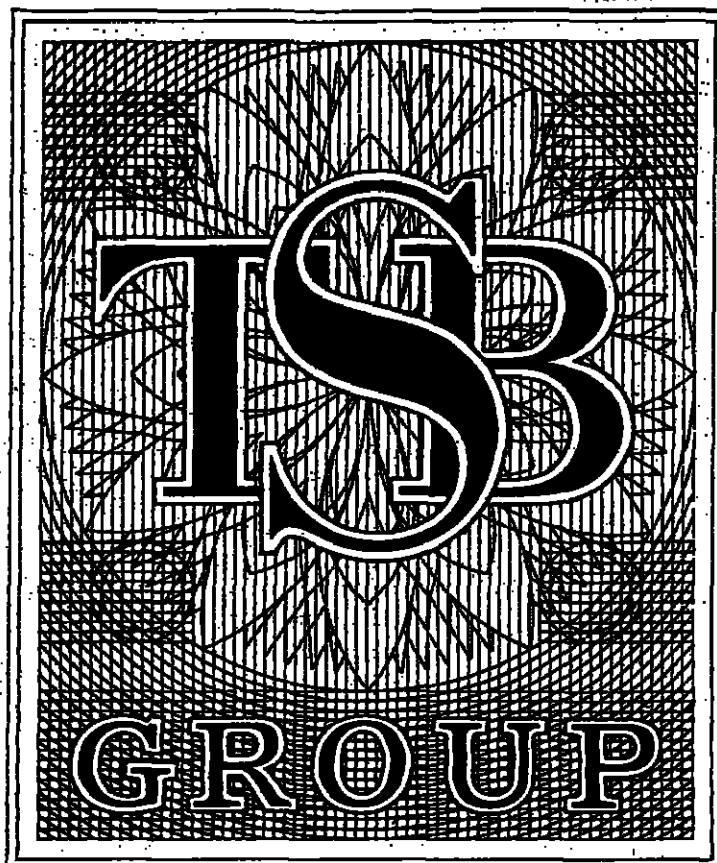
Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Share	High	Low	Open	Close
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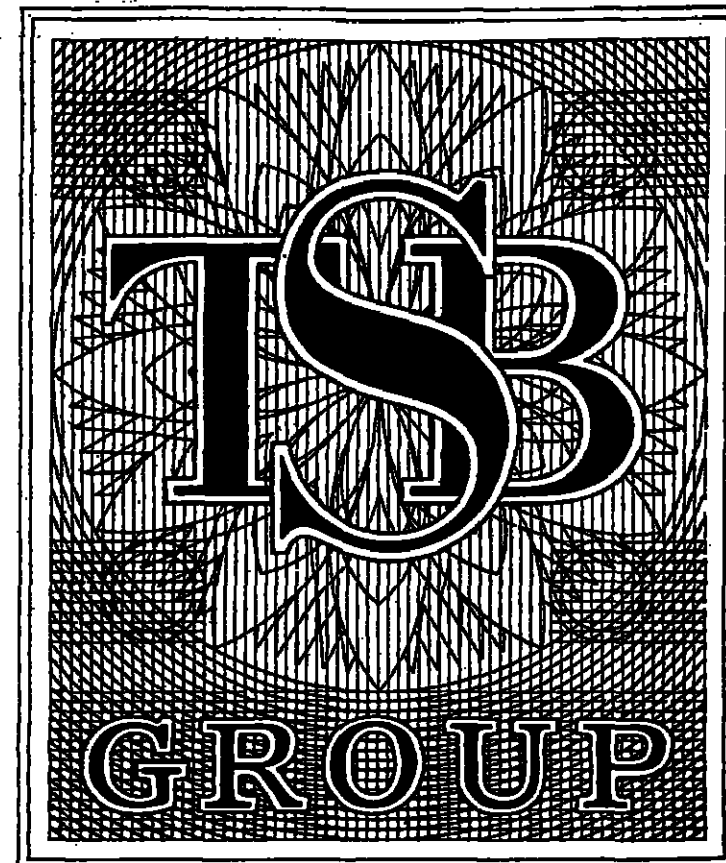
Share	High	Low	Open
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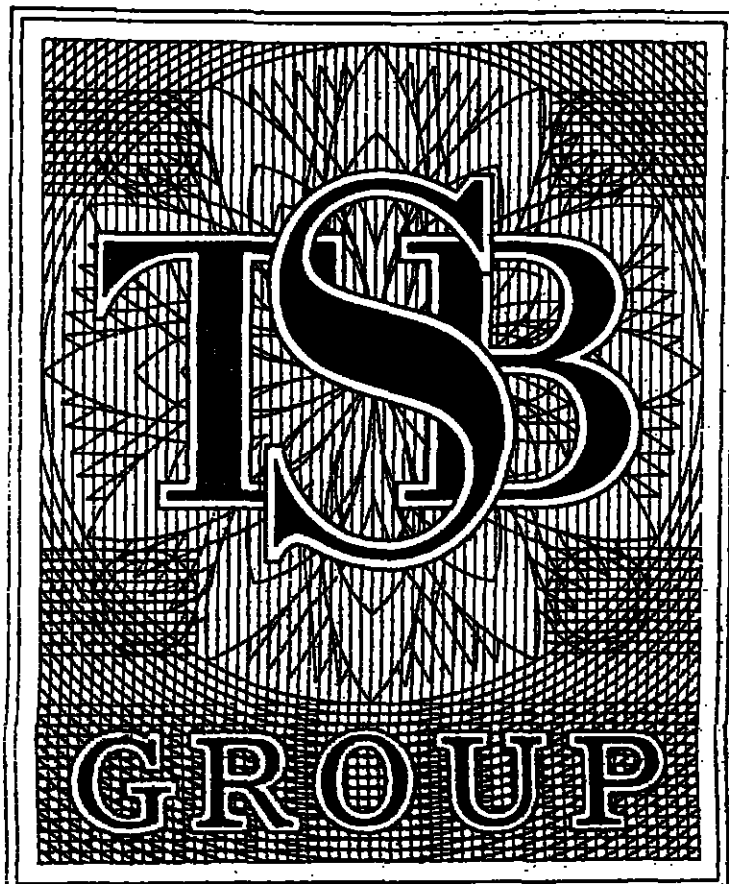
TSB Group is one of Britain's major financial organisations.



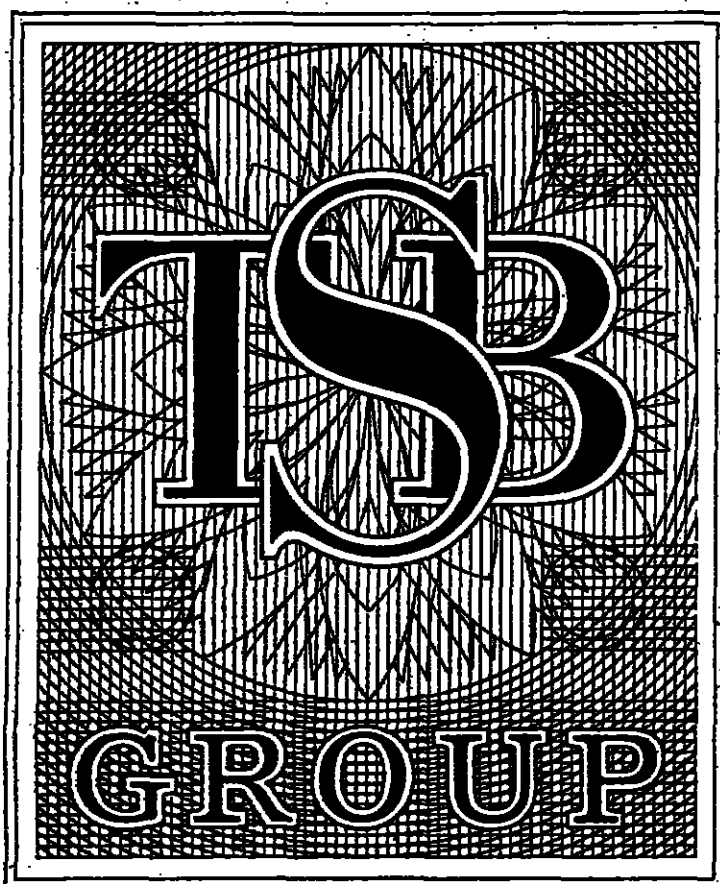
Our core businesses are banking and insurance.



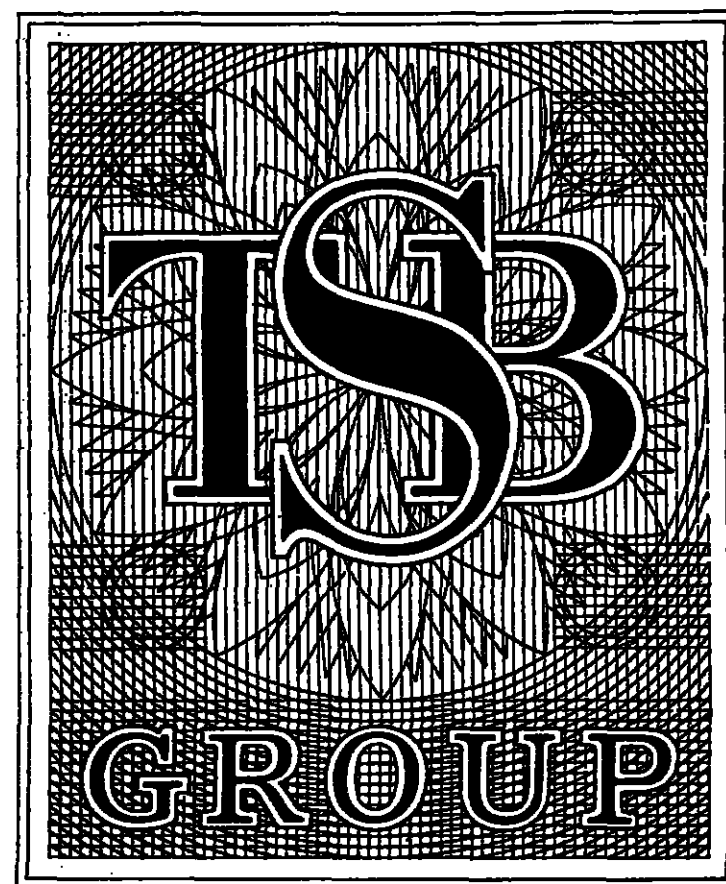
Last year we undertook a major reorganisation of our retail banking business.



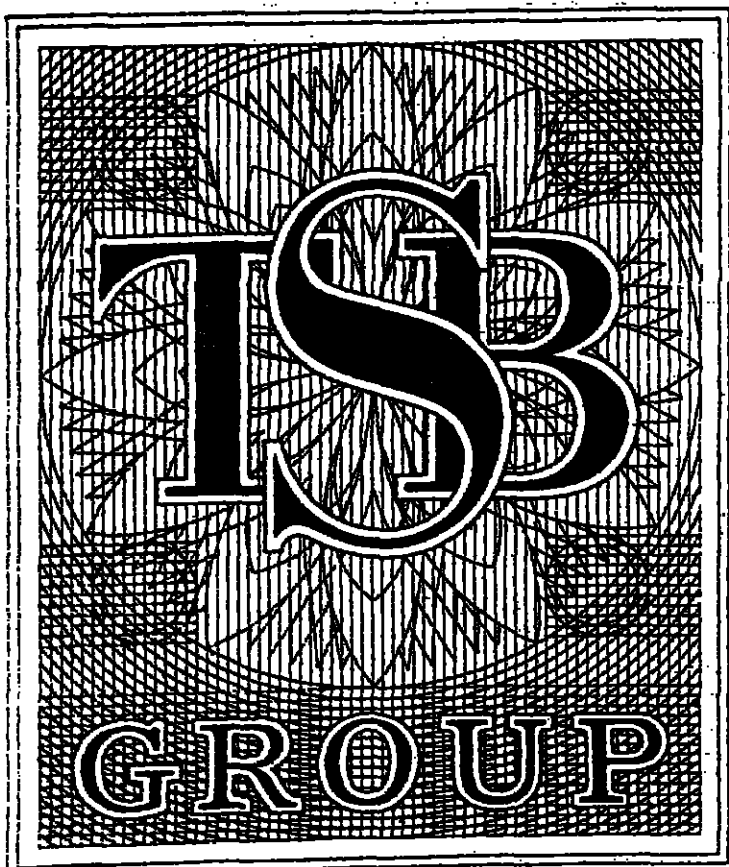
As a result, retail banking profits were up 40% last year. Income rose by 18% but costs were only up 5%.



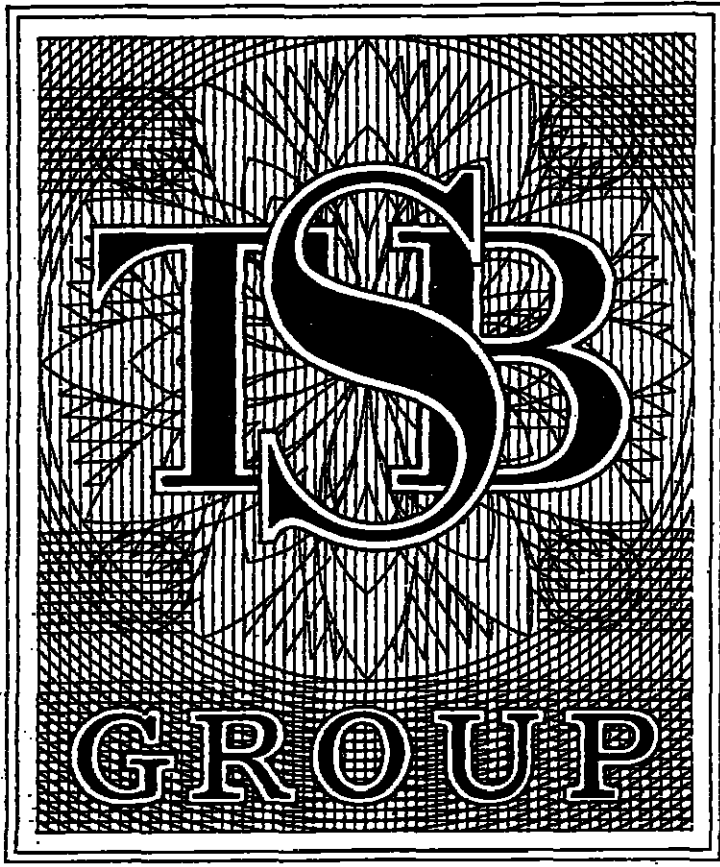
Profits from insurance and investment services also rose, by 33%.



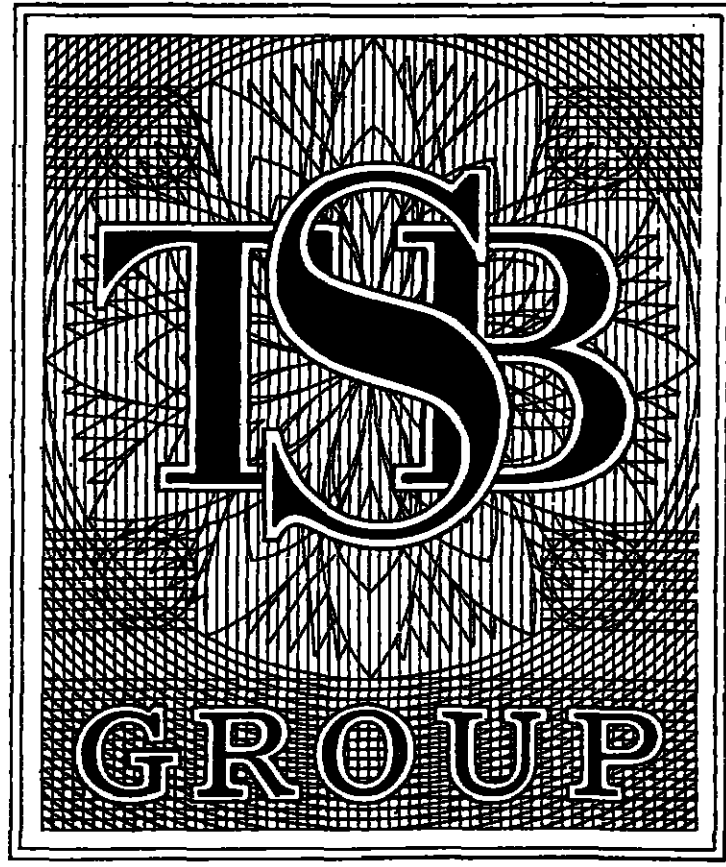
Like other banks, we were hit by provisions against bad and doubtful debts as a result of the recession, and this held back total profits.



TSB Group continues to invest in the future to build long-term value for our shareholders.



A 10.3% increase in dividend for the year reflects the Group's financial strength.



For more information about the TSB Group, write to Peter Rowland, Secretary, 25 Milk Street, London EC2V 8LU.

BANKING AND BEYOND.

ASSETS: £27 billion. SHARE CAPITAL AND RESERVES: £1.8 billion. CURRENT AND DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS: £23 billion. ADVANCES: £17 billion. FUNDS UNDER MANAGEMENT AND ADVICE: £22 billion.
RETAIL BANKING: TSB Bank; UHY. TSB Property Services. CORPORATE AND MERCHANT BANKING: Hill Samuel Bank. INSURANCE AND INVESTMENT SERVICES: TSB Trust Company; Hill Samuel Investment Services Group; Bell Lawrie White; Hill House Hammond; Hill Samuel Investment Management Group. COMMERCIAL: Noble Lowndes; Swan National; Wescol International Marine Services.

[illegible][illegible]

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 94.2 (day's range 94.2-94.3).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mid Rates for Feb 18

	Close	1 month	3 months
New York	1.9590-1.9595	1.9590-1.9590	1.9590-1.9590
London	2.2575-2.2577	2.2577-2.2580	0.50-0.47
Amsterdam	3.2752-3.2815	3.2752-3.2758	1% 1p
Frankfurt	3.2752-3.2815	3.2752-3.2758	3% 2p
Paris	60.70-60.83	60.70-60.83	90-1p
Copenhagen	11.1691-11.1711	11.1691-11.1714	3% 2p
Stockholm	1.0005-1.0034	1.0005-1.0015	24-18p
Dublin	8.9018-8.9118	8.9018-8.9118	30-1p
Zurich	54.51-55.30	54.51-55.30	6% 2p
Madrid	181.01-181.99	181.01-181.99	7-15p
Oslo	210.50-210.52	210.50-210.52	2% 2p
Geneva	11.3532-11.3576	11.3532-11.3576	2% 2p
Paris	6.9190-6.9193	6.9190-6.9193	3-2p
Brussels	10.6581-10.6591	10.6581-10.6591	3-2p
Tokyo	255.30-255.71	255.30-255.71	1% 3p
Venice	20.4141-20.4470	20.4141-20.4470	7-14p
Suisse	2.4550-2.4574	2.4550-2.4574	19-19p
Source: Ecol		Premium = p, Discount = ds.	

MONEY RATES (%)

Bank Rates: Cheating Banks 13%	Finance Has 14		
Discount Market Lenses: Overnight 10%	10%	Week Bank: 13%	
Three Month Bill (90day): 3 mth 12%	12%	3 mth 12 1/2%	3 mth 12 1/2%

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank (90day):	12%-13 1/2%	12%-13 1/2%	12%-13 1/2%	11%-11 1/2%	11%-11 1/2%
Trade Bills (90day):	12%-13 1/2%	12%-13 1/2%	12%-13 1/2%	12%-12 1/2%	12%-11 1/2%
Overnight (over 90day):	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%
Local Authority Debt:	13%-14%	n/a	13%-14%	12%-12 1/2%	11%-11 1/2%
Swelling Cdn:	13%-14%	13%-14%	13%-14%	12%-12 1/2%	11%-11 1/2%
Swelling U.S. Govt:	8%-8 1/2%	8%-8 1/2%	8%-8 1/2%	8%-8 1/2%	8%-8 1/2%
Swelling Supply Cdn:	13%-13 1/2%	13%-13 1/2%	13%-13 1/2%	12%-12 1/2%	11%-11 1/2%

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

	7 day	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	6 1/2%-6 3/4%	6 1/2%-6 3/4%	6 1/2%-6 3/4%	6 1/2%-6 3/4%
Swiss Franc:	6 1/2%-6 3/4%	6 1/2%-6 3/4%	6 1/2%-6 3/4%	6 1/2%-6 3/4%
French Franc:	6 1/2%-6 3/4%	6 1/2%-6 3/4%	6 1/2%-6 3/4%	6 1/2%-6 3/4%
Spanish Peseta:	7 1/2%-7 3/4%	7 1/2%-7 3/4%	7 1/2%-7 3/4%	7 1/2%-7 3/4%
Yen:	8 1/2%-8 3/4%	8 1/2%-8 3/4%	8 1/2%-8 3/4%	8 1/2%-8 3/4%

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS

(Bull & Co)

Bullion: Spot \$364.00-364.50	Gold: \$363.70-364.20	Hedge: \$364.00-365.20
Low: \$363.50-364.00	Kingsmead: \$363.50-364.50	(\$1.05-0.100-0.100)

OTHER STERLING DOLLAR SPOT RATES

	1989-7-1984-5	1984-5-1989-7	1989-7-1984-5
Argentina austral*	2,494-2,495	2,494-2,495	1,7395-1,7399
Australia dollar	n/a	n/a	1,7418-1,7423
Bahian dollar	n/a	n/a	2,8010-2,8020
Brazil cruzeiro*	639,000-639,002	639,000-639,002	1,2991-1,2977
Canada dollar	0.6550-0.6551	0.6550-0.6551	1,1530-1,1531
French franc	7.025-7.025	7.025-7.025	0,6375-0,6376
Greece drachma	310.15-318.15	310.15-318.15	5,7900-5,7900
Hong Kong dollar	16.9700-16.9700	16.9700-16.9700	1,0000-1,0000
Indian rupee	97.10-97.57	97.10-97.57	1,4850-1,4852
Kuwait dirham KD	1.2610-1.2610	1.2610-1.2610	1,2700-1,2702
Malaysian dollar	2.6910-2.6910	2.6910-2.6910	1,0000-1,0000
Mexico peso	6.925-6.925	6.925-6.925	1,5425-1,5425
New Zealand dollar	3.2391-3.2401	3.2391-3.2401	1,1010-1,1012
Philippine peso	16.97-16.97	16.97-16.97	1,0000-1,0000
Singapore dollar	3.2392-3.2401	3.2392-3.2401	30.40-30.45
S Africa rand (m)	4.2922-4.2928	4.2922-4.2928	7,7990-7,7915
S Korea won	10.000-10.000		

12/29/79	Price	Open	High	Low	P/E
High Low Company	Vol	Offer	Change	Vol	
112	111	115	47	80	225
113	114	117	11	81	112
114	115	118	3	82	231
115	116	119	3	83	42
116	117	120	3	84	174
117	118	121	3	85	119
118	119	122	3	86	117
119	120	123	3	87	119
120	121	124	3	88	119
121	122	125	3	89	119
122	123	126	3	90	119
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185	186	189	3	153	119
186	187	190	3	154	119
187	188	191	3	155	119
188	189	192	3	156	119
189	190	193	3	157	119
190	191	194	3</		

LONDON FOX				LONDON OIL REPORTS (8:30-10) - London 8:30gmt			
				A combination of an American holiday, bond issues and Asia's meeting in Moscow took prices lower.			
COCCA		COFFEE		SUGAR (FOB)		CRUDE OIL (\$/bbl) (Fov)	
Mar	827-619	Mar	827-628	C Cane	198-272	Mar	17.90 -0.90
Apr	827-619	Apr	827-628	Q Cane	198-272	Apr	17.20 -0.70
May	827-619	May	827-628	W Cane	198-272	May	17.20 -0.70
Jun	827-619	Jun	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Jun	17.20 -0.70
Jul	827-619	Jul	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Jul	17.20 -0.70
Aug	827-619	Aug	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Aug	17.20 -0.70
Sep	827-619	Sep	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Sep	17.20 -0.70
Oct	827-619	Oct	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Oct	17.20 -0.70
Nov	827-619	Nov	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Nov	17.20 -0.70
Dec	827-619	Dec	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Dec	17.20 -0.70
Jan	827-619	Jan	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Jan	17.20 -0.70
Feb	827-619	Feb	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Feb	17.20 -0.70
Mar	827-619	Mar	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Mar	17.20 -0.70
Apr	827-619	Apr	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Apr	17.20 -0.70
May	827-619	May	827-628	W Cane	198-272	May	17.20 -0.70
Jun	827-619	Jun	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Jun	17.20 -0.70
Jul	827-619	Jul	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Jul	17.20 -0.70
Aug	827-619	Aug	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Aug	17.20 -0.70
Sep	827-619	Sep	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Sep	17.20 -0.70
Oct	827-619	Oct	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Oct	17.20 -0.70
Nov	827-619	Nov	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Nov	17.20 -0.70
Dec	827-619	Dec	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Dec	17.20 -0.70
Jan	827-619	Jan	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Jan	17.20 -0.70
Feb	827-619	Feb	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Feb	17.20 -0.70
Mar	827-619	Mar	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Mar	17.20 -0.70
Apr	827-619	Apr	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Apr	17.20 -0.70
May	827-619	May	827-628	W Cane	198-272	May	17.20 -0.70
Jun	827-619	Jun	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Jun	17.20 -0.70
Jul	827-619	Jul	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Jul	17.20 -0.70
Aug	827-619	Aug	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Aug	17.20 -0.70
Sep	827-619	Sep	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Sep	17.20 -0.70
Oct	827-619	Oct	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Oct	17.20 -0.70
Nov	827-619	Nov	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Nov	17.20 -0.70
Dec	827-619	Dec	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Dec	17.20 -0.70
Jan	827-619	Jan	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Jan	17.20 -0.70
Feb	827-619	Feb	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Feb	17.20 -0.70
Mar	827-619	Mar	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Mar	17.20 -0.70
Apr	827-619	Apr	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Apr	17.20 -0.70
May	827-619	May	827-628	W Cane	198-272	May	17.20 -0.70
Jun	827-619	Jun	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Jun	17.20 -0.70
Jul	827-619	Jul	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Jul	17.20 -0.70
Aug	827-619	Aug	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Aug	17.20 -0.70
Sep	827-619	Sep	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Sep	17.20 -0.70
Oct	827-619	Oct	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Oct	17.20 -0.70
Nov	827-619	Nov	827-628	W Cane	198-272	Nov	17.20 -0.70

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The boom years of graduate recruitment may seem distant to 1991's final-year students, but they have left a useful legacy with the proliferation of new careers magazines designed to help in job decisions.

Careers information is now presented more attractively in a "lifestyle" format designed for student appeal, and careers literature is moving away from bland, rose-tinted "adventorial". Apparently popular with their target audience, this new wave of careers titles has sometimes met a mixed response from employers and college careers services.

Half-a-dozen titles operate in the field — the *Graduate Post*, *Rasp*, *Student Initiative*, *SIS* (Student Industrial Societies), *Graduate Careers and Graduate Scientist and Engineer* (Dominion Press), and *Graduate Computerworld* (IDG Communications). A new national student newspaper, the *Weekly Review* ("produced entirely by students"), is running careers features.

Students can obtain these magazines free at their careers offices, but in a highly competitive field each publication is looking to establish a recognisable market identity and thereby to maximise recruitment advertising revenue.

The *Graduate Post* is not strictly "new wave", since it has been appearing on campus for eight years. Produced by Newpoint, part of Reed Business Publishing, it is the only specialist newspaper in graduate careers, coming out every two weeks in tabloid format. It has a circulation of 47,000, mostly distributed free at college careers offices, although one third of copies are paid for on subscription. Last October it was relaunched with a new look designed to enhance the news element.

Heather Perry, the young graduate editor (modern languages at

All the career paths fit to print

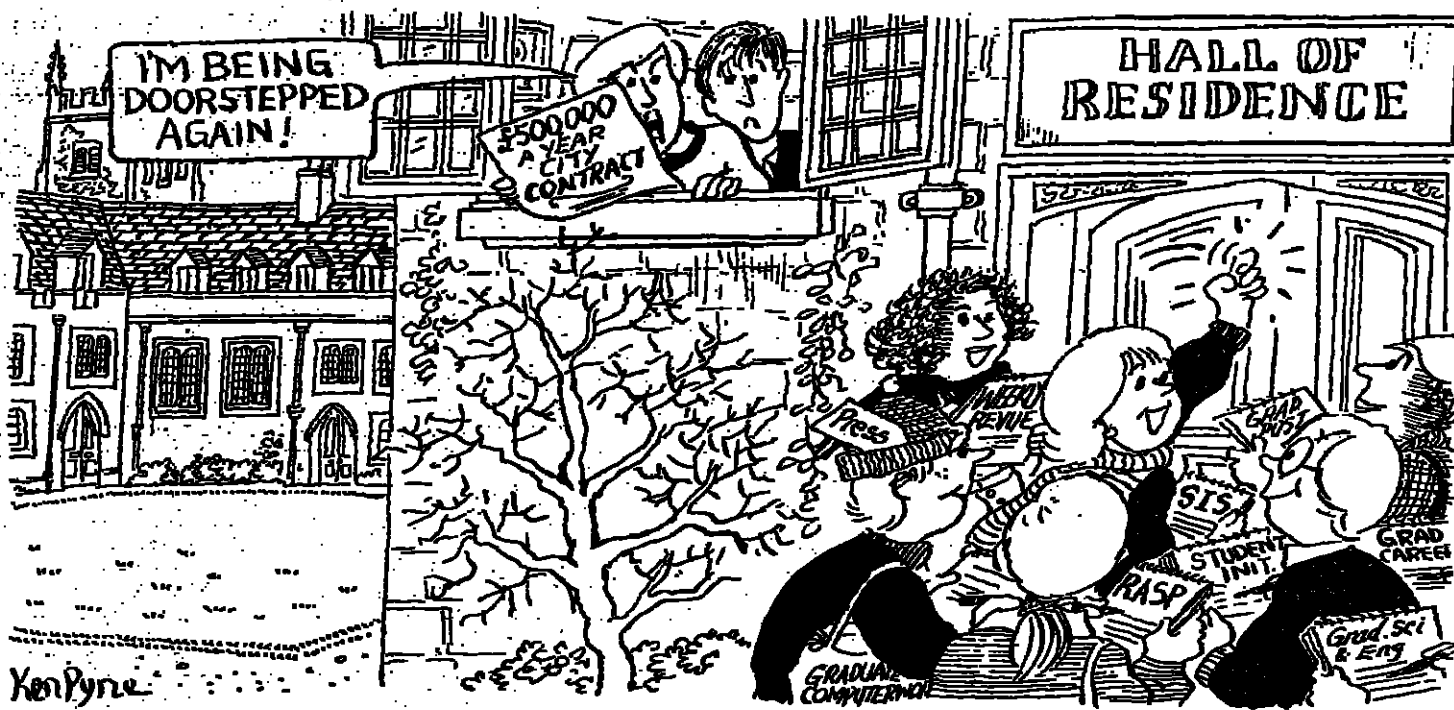
As graduate vacancies decrease, there is help to be found with the marked proliferation of careers magazines, Derek Morgan writes

Cambridge), says: "We aim to provide objective careers information for students to weigh up for themselves rather than trying to give people advice. We are the only newspaper in this field, and this is what we have played on in our relaunch."

"Now we are much more newsy and current and our news is broader, reflecting general campus stories as well as straight careers. We have appointed a full-time news editor, and we do not just rely on press releases — we go out and hunt information."

Features have also been tightened up and they are now more issue-based, dealing with topics such as racial equality in recruitment. Interviews have a higher profile, and recent subjects include Linda Lancaster-Gayle, the publishing director of *TV Times*, and Steve Coppell and Will Carling, offering useful advice on leadership in sport and in management.

In recent years a growing number of graduates have changed their employer, and often their career, within the first two years of employment — though the trend may change if recession bites deep. The *Graduate Post* has a job



changers' section, although Ms Perry feels that new graduates have been moving on too quickly. "The relative job boom of the Eighties perhaps discouraged graduates from properly thinking through their career decisions. You need to consider loyalty to the company which has trained you."

A feature of all the new publications is the young graduate profile. Indeed, *Rasp* ("about life after graduation") was launched 12 months ago with the aim of looking at careers more from the student viewpoint. The title comes from campus slang for "dis-

cussion", although the magazine also claims it is an acronym for Real Answers to Student Problems. Emma Mahony, *Rasp* editor, has a degree in Russian from Exeter university, and set up the magazine under the enterprise allowance scheme with a business partner, Guy Ogilvy, who looks after sales. She believes two factors give *Rasp* an identity. "All our articles are written by young graduates. Also, as well as being available at college careers offices, our magazine is actually distributed on campus via our network of student magazine editors." It is

also printed on "environmentally friendly paper", she says. If careers information comes from inside companies, written by young graduates in the workplace, how can it be objective? Ms Mahony acknowledges that "people tend to have a positive approach to their career, otherwise they would not be in the job", but she adds, "we do not ask them to print their company's name, and when we commission we ask for at least a paragraph on the downside of the job."

Ms Perry agrees: "We are running a lot more profiles. It has been

proven that students enjoy finding out what people actually do, and hearing what graduates say about the positive and negative aspects of the job. Naturally, companies select their strongest graduates to be profiled, but our staff at Newpoint is young and we can use our own contacts to approach individuals."

Ms Mahony thinks much careers literature used to be "overly positive, not very young and rather dreary". *Rasp* carries music, film and theatre reviews. "Students may pick up the magazine to read them, and then browse

through the careers material." *Rasp* also covers leisure pursuits such as hang-gliding and car rallies.

As competition has heated up, publications have become more hard-hitting. *Student Initiative* (from Stanley Armstrong Publishing, backed by the employer-led Management Charter Initiative) was launched in the autumn term of 1989 aiming "to separate the hype from the reality". Its opening editorial called for change, "in the whole impersonal, graduate packaging machine". In a regular feature called "The Acid Test", five volunteer students have taken part in an experiment to consumer-test the graduate recruitment system.

Student Initiative's editor, Neil Bartlett, says: "Every magazine needs to find a middle line between students and employers."

He attributes company problems in retaining new graduates partly to over-hype. "Free editorial in exchange for recruitment company advertising only leads to low reader credibility. The other extreme is to look at things only from the student viewpoint. *Student Initiative* is trying to create a bridge between students and employers."

Mr Bartlett sees the emphasis on management as an important element in the magazine's market niche.

Individuals can take out annual subscriptions to the *Graduate Post* (fortnightly) for £16.50, and to *Rasp* (six issues a year) for £6.50. *Freeport*, *Graduate Post* Subscriptions, Newpoint Publishing, Newpoint House, St James Lane, London W10 3BR; *Rasp* Subscriptions, 11 Chelsea Wharf, 15 Lons Road, London SW10 0QJ; *Student Initiative* from Stanley Armstrong Publications, Greenwells, Dodleston, Chester CH4 9NG; *Graduate Computerworld* from IDG Communications Ltd, 9 Kelsey Park Road, Beckenham.

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Verdicts to be seen and heard

On Friday, the second reading debate of my private member's bill will take place in the House of Commons. The courts (research) bill would remove two areas of statutory restrictions that are no longer justified and prevent open justice. They are section 41 of the Criminal Justice Act, 1925, which prohibits photography in courts, and sections 8 and 9 of the Contempt of Court Act, 1981, which forbids the interviewing of jurors.

The bill would allow controlled pilot projects to take place under the aegis of the Lord Chancellor's department or the Home Office.

What is the justification for allowing television cameras in courts? It is a principle of our law that justice should not only be done, but also be seen to be done. Today, this means allowing the public and journalists into a court when it is not sitting in chambers or in camera.

However, most of the population does not or cannot go to court. Even those who do go are not guaranteed entry because of limited court space, and therefore most people's understanding and knowledge of what happens in court is determined solely by newspaper reports and television journalists' accounts of what they observed. The closest the

Justice must be seen to be done on TV, according to Mike Woodcock. He argues that his bill, which proposes also that jury members should be quizzed on verdicts, will develop democracy

LEGAL BRIEF

public gets to seeing what actually occurred in the courtroom is by artists' sketches, which are not permitted to be drawn in court.

This limited interpretation of open justice may have been satisfactory in 1925, but it is surely not sufficient in 1991. Television is now our principal source of information. Research shows that 70 per cent of adults in the United Kingdom learn most of what they know about current events from television. Television, therefore, would greatly assist in informing and educating the public and thereby enhance people's confidence in our legal system.

Some people are deeply suspicious of the effects of allowing cameras into courts. Some believe that television is concerned only with entertainment and has a tendency to trivialise. However, entertainment is just one of its functions and it also can, and does, fulfil separately an important educational and informative role.

Others argue that television cameras can be intrusive and disruptive. However, I have

my own experience from which to draw in this regard. Those that are used in the Houses of Parliament are so unobtrusive as to be no longer noticed and I feel sure that a similar situation would quickly develop in the courts.

Perhaps the most important of all the arguments against the presence of cameras is that they would deter potential witnesses from attending court or in some way affect their testimony.

The recent Bar Council report on televising the courts examined this argument by looking at the evidence from



Open: Mike Woodcock

those countries that do allow cameras in court, particularly the United States.

The Supreme Court of Florida, for example, authorised, in the late Seventies, a one-year experiment of televising all its state courts. During the year, more than 2,750 people took part in the televised trials, either as judge, attorney, juror, witness or court official. Everyone was asked to provide a report of their experience and complete a questionnaire.

The conclusions were that the presence of a camera did not adversely affect the qual-

ity of justice or distort the legal process. This result has been found in every American state that has carried out similar research.

Nevertheless, some trials would not be suitable to be included in the pilot projects, such as those of rape and any involving children. There would have to be restrictions on what could be filmed. Using the rules of coverage of the New York courts as a guide, I believe that the principal restrictions could be:

- no pictures of the jury;
- no pictures of any witness whose identity is protected by law;
- no pictures of anyone if such coverage is liable to endanger the safety of that person;
- no coverage of any proceedings that are in chambers or in camera or in respect of which an order under the Contempt of Court Act, 1981, has been made;
- no pictures of documents or advocates' benches;
- no sound transmission of any conferences in court between lawyers and their clients.

I stress that my bill does not

'Televising court proceedings would greatly assist in informing and educating the public and thereby enhance people's confidence in the legal system'



Law Report February 19 1991 House of Lords

Assessing compensation for land acquired by compulsory purchase order

Hertfordshire County Council v Ouzanne and Others
Before Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Lord Chancellor, Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Brightman, Lord Oliver of Aylmerton and Lord Lowry [Speeches February 14]

The special suitability of land for a purpose was only to be disregarded in assessing compensation for compulsory purchase if the statutory powers in pursuance of which it was to be applied related to the use of the land acquired.

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by the acquiring authority, Hertfordshire County Council, from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Fox, Lord Justice Mann and Sir Rousley Cumming-Bruce) (1989) 2 EGLR 18 who on July 28, 1989, had allowed in part

their appeal from the Lands Tribunal (Mr C. R. Mallen, FRICS) (1988) 2 EGLR 213. Section 5 of the Land Compensation Act 1961 provides: "Compensation in respect of any compulsory acquisition shall be assessed in accordance with the following rules: ... (3) The special suitability or adaptability of the land for any purpose shall not be taken into account if that purpose is a purpose to which it could be applied only in pursuance of statutory powers ..."

Mr Michael Rich, QC and Mr John Howell for the council; Mr Matthew Horton, QC and Mr Sebastian Edd for the claimants; Mr Percy James Ouzanne, Mr Michael John Wilson and Rothschild Trust Co (C.L.) Ltd.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR said that the council were the

highway authority for Hertfordshire. The East Hertfordshire District Council (Thorley Lane, Bishop's Stortford) Compulsory Purchase Order 1976 had authorised on their behalf the compulsory purchase of 1,605 hectares of land belonging to the claimants adjoining the south side of Thorley Lane.

The purpose of the compulsory purchase order had been described as *inter alia*, the construction of a new highway from the existing junction of Thorley Lane and the A11 London-Norwich trunk road to a point 124 metres west of the junction of Thorley Lane and Pynchbeck.

The agricultural value of the land taken had been agreed at £5,500. The claimants, however, had contended that it was a "ranch strip", being required to enable residential develop-

ment of a substantial area to the north of Thorley Lane, the Thorley Development Area ("TDA").

By a calculation relating to the difference between the value of the TDA if development was possible and its value if it was not, the claimants contended that their land should be valued at £1,240,000.

That seemed a remarkably large figure, particularly as the planning permission in respect of the TDA did not appear to have required as a condition of development that an access should be made available to the south of it over the claimants' land.

The Lands Tribunal had determined compensation in the sum claimed.

The council's first argument before the Court of Appeal had been that the tribunal had not

identified the scheme underlying the acquisition and, therefore, had failed to identify, as was necessary, the extent to which the value of the land was affected by the scheme.

The Court of Appeal had accepted that argument and remitted the case to the tribunal on the issue of what the scheme was.

The council's second argument, the only one with which the House of Lords was concerned, related to rule (3) of section 5 of the 1961 Act.

The statutory powers that they said were relevant were those to stop up an existing highway in section 209 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971.

No stopping-up order had been produced and the council had not established that any order had been made.

The council's argument was that the claimants' land could be used for the realignment of Thorley Lane if there were a stopping-up order in respect of the existing lane.

It was accepted that no part of the existing lane could be affected by any such order lay within the land acquired from the claimants.

In elaborating their contention, the council had argued that it could not be disputed that the land had an enhanced value only in respect of its special suitability or adaptability for the purpose of providing a realignment of the lane.

Further, they argued, in order that it should be so used it was necessary that part of the existing lane should be stopped up, and, since it was a public highway, such stopping-up required the exercise of statutory powers.

On that basis, they claimed that the part of rule (3) relied on required the special suitability or adaptability of the claimants' land for use for the realignment of the lane to be disregarded in assessing the compensation.

Reference had been made to the history and purpose of rule (3), but his Lordship regarded the language as sufficiently plain to reach a clear conclusion on its applicability to the present case.

The special suitability or adaptability of the land for any purpose was directed to be left out of account if that purpose was one to which it could be applied only in pursuance of statutory powers.

That was expressed in the passive voice but the context showed that the application referred to was by a person using

the land, and, therefore, the statutory powers in question had to be powers enabling a person entitled to use the land to apply it to the purpose in question.

Since the purpose in question was one to which the land could be applied only in pursuance of the statutory powers, the statutory powers had to be necessary to enable such person to use the land for that purpose.

His Lordship did not see how statutory powers not related to the use of the land acquired could form a basis for the application of that part of the rule.

Therefore, statutory powers conferred on the secretary of state to order the stopping up of a highway on land that was not part of the land being acquired could not form the basis of the application of that part of the rule to the land acquired.

Since the only statutory powers relied on by the council were those of the secretary of state to stop up parts of Thorley Lane, their argument failed.

The construction of the relevant part of the rule that his Lordship had adopted was consistent with the approach taken by Lord Lowry to the construction of the words "in pursuance of" in the *Hampton v Leazes* (1914) AC 569, a decision of the Privy Council on appeal from the Superior Court of Quebec, provided an illustration of the cases that Parliament had covered by

the part of rule (3) founded on, but wrong in contending that it applied to the present case.

Then, the purpose giving rise to the enhancement of value could only have arisen where the appropriate statutory powers had been granted, whereas in the present case the land acquired could have been used for a highway without the exercise of any statutory power and certainly had not been dependent on the secretary of state exercising any statutory power to stop up any part of Thorley Lane.

Conceded for the claimants had pointed out that, if the present case was covered by rule (3), it was difficult to see why the rule should not also cover a purpose to which a piece of land could be put, only after obtaining some particular statutory consent such as planning permission, consent under the Building Acts or the like.

It was clear from the modern statutory provisions governing compensation for compulsory acquisition that the question of what types of development would require planning consent was highly relevant to the determination.

Any construction of the provision founded on that resulted in any enhancement of the value of a piece of land resulting from its use for a purpose that required planning permission being disregarded would be absurd.

Lord Keith, Lord Brightman, Lord Oliver and Lord Lowry agreed.

Solicitors: Mr W. J. Church, Hertford; Berwin Leighton.

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Applications should be submitted by Monday, 11th March 1991, but those received after that date may still be considered.

When solicitors can be made liable for costs order

Mainwaring v Goldtech Investments Ltd
Before Lord Justice Slade, Lord Justice Russell and Lord Justice Butler-Sloss [Judgment January 24]

Although the general tort of maintenance was abolished in 1967, solicitors who conducted litigation in the knowledge that there was no real likelihood of their ever having their costs and expenses reimbursed by or on behalf of the client, save in the event of the litigation being successful, could be made liable for a costs order which that client had failed to satisfy.

The Court of Appeal so stated in dismissing an appeal by Miss Zipporah Mainwaring against the dismissal by Mr Justice Hoffmann on November 13, 1989 of a motion under Order 62, rule 11 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, asking that the costs of two consolidated actions be awarded to Miss Mainwaring and Mr Lisle from Goldtech Investments Ltd. Appeals by Miss Mainwaring against two other judgments on December 4, 1989 were also dismissed.

Miss Mainwaring in person; Mr Peter Sheridan, QC and Mr Raoul Downey for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE SLADE, giving the judgment of the court, said that Miss Mainwaring and a Mr Lisle were plaintiffs in the first of two consolidated actions and Goldtech were the defendants. In the second action the roles were reversed.

Miss Mainwaring and Mr Lisle claimed £40,000 for salary and expenses due under contracts of service or alternatively a quantum meruit and damages in respect of a promised share of profit in Goldtech, an English company formed to carry on business dealing in commemorative gold medals.

Goldtech sought injunctions, *inter alia*, to restrain Miss Mainwaring and Mr Lisle from representing themselves to act for Goldtech.

Following the abandonment of the action by Goldtech and the acquiescence of its retainers, Lipkin Gorman applied to come off the record on May 4, 1989 and Miss Mainwaring and Mr

Lisle applied for security for costs.

On the failure of Goldtech to comply with an order to pay £25,000 into court within 21 days the consolidated counterclaim was dismissed with costs on an indemnity basis being awarded to Miss Mainwaring and Mr Lisle. Goldtech failed to meet that order.

Miss Mainwaring had presented five heads of complaint to the court, the first of which was that Lipkin Gorman had wrongfully maintained Goldtech's action.

The general tort of maintenance was abolished by section 14(1) of the Criminal Law Act 1967.

Miss Mainwaring had, however, submitted that it was not necessarily objectionable for a solicitor to conduct litigation giving financial credit to his client in respect of the liability for costs, if it was objectionable for costs to be reimbursed by or on behalf of Goldtech.

Even if Mr Lipkin turned out to have been too trusting and even if his firm was not paid all its fees, there was nothing sufficient to contradict Mr Lipkin's evidence that he honestly expected that Goldtech or its promoters would pay and that his firm conducted the litigation on that basis.

Their Lordships agreed with Mr Justice Hoffmann that that was sufficient to meet the charge of maintenance.

Solicitors: S. J. Berwin & Co.

Secret recordings admissible

Regina v Ali
Recordings of conversations between the accused and his family taken in an interview room where the police had planted a microphone without informing the accused or making any record of the "bugging" were admissible in evidence.

The question then was whether the trial judge had correctly exercised his discretion to admit them under section 78 of the Police and

Criminal Evidence Act 1984. The Court of Appeal Criminal Division (Lord Justice Watkins, Mr Justice Leonard and Mr Justice Beldford) so held on February 1 in dismissing an appeal against the conviction of Vernon Waters and 10 years for the attempted murder of Akhtar Bibi, his former wife, imposed by Mr Justice Kennedy at Leeds Crown Court on November 26, 1987.

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Justice defeats blind prejudice

The recent appointment of Britain's first blind judge will help to break down barriers for the disabled, Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent, writes

When John Wall first applied to sit on the Bench, he received a polite but firm response from the Lord Chancellor's department that it was not policy to appoint blind people to judicial office. He persisted, and now, 20 years later, he has just completed two weeks as a part-time master in the High Court chancery division, the first blind person to be appointed a judge in modern Britain.

Attitudes have changed, but his appointment at the age of 60, after two decades of knocking on the door, was not straightforward. The fact that "justice" personified is blindfolded to symbolise impartiality did not seem to carry any weight. "When I was interviewed it became clear that they had certain reservations. The first was that blind people could not observe the demeanour of witnesses. They said you need to see people to know whether they are telling the truth, to which I pointed out that no self-respecting judge would reach his conclusion about a person's veracity on the basis of what they look like. I also pointed out that veracity can be judged in other ways, by how people say things and what they say."

The second objection raised, he says, was that the public would have no confidence in a blind judge. "I pointed out that the public has sufficient confidence in David Blunkett to elect him as an MP, and in the United States, where members of the judiciary are often elected, they have quite a few blind people as judges."

After some months' correspond-

ence, he was given a trial period sitting alongside the chief master, Master Munrow. That was a success and two weeks ago he started work on a range of civil cases — mortgage evictions, dealing with squatters, summary judgments, the occasional litigant in person and a variety of pre-trial applications. His clerk reads him the papers, and he has a Braille machine on which to make notes. So far he has not found any difficulties.

"Justice is supposed to be blindfolded and certainly I find one is not distracted. I had a case where I was being asked to turn the person out because of mortgage arrears, and a woman came in apparently swathed in bandages, presumably to elicit sympathy. But I just listened to the evidence. I did not know about her bandages until the clerk told me afterwards."

The appointment of Mr Wall, who is a solicitor with the City firm Lawrence Graham, and is the chairman of the Royal National Institute for the Blind, will give a higher profile to lawyers with disabilities generally. This, in turn, may have a beneficial spin-off in the courts improving how they cater for disabled people.

John Willis, a solicitor with Lovell White Durrant and the chairman of the relatively new Law Society group, Solicitors With Disabilities, hails the appointment as an important step towards breaking down the barriers that exist between disabled lawyers and the rest of the legal profession, as well as with the general public.

"Breaking down this barrier is one

of our main aims," he says. At the same time, the group is lobbying the Lord Chancellor's department about court facilities. A survey by the National Federation of Consumer Groups in 1984 found varying facilities for disabled people: six out of ten magistrates' courts buildings and six out of 13 county courts were not accessible at all. Within buildings, not all courtrooms (and hardly any toilets) were accessible.

Solicitors With Disabilities wants a say in the design of new buildings so that disabled lawyers, as well as the public, are catered for. "For small sums of money, enormous benefits can be achieved. A handrail can make all the difference for people with walking difficulties, or a line painted at the top and bottom of stairs for the partially sighted."

Mr Wall's appointment is expected to be a boost for other disabled lawyers. "The problem has always been a lack of imagination," Mr Willis says. "It is difficult for sighted people, for instance, to imagine being blind. But if they see someone operating who is blind, they realise they can do the job just as well. People ask how somebody with cerebral palsy can be a lawyer. We have three in our group. It is your brain that counts. This appointment is a great step forward."

Further information: Court Facilities in England and Wales, a Consumer Survey, £3.50 from National Federation of Consumer Groups, 12 Mosley Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1DE.



Persistence pays: John Wall pushed for years to be a judge

Graduate payoff

LAW graduates struggling at the College of Law to pass their finals normally do so happy in the knowledge there is a job waiting for them. The indications are, however, that they should take nothing for granted. Firms that budgeted for a certain number of graduates are now employing various tactics to dissuade new recruits from joining.

The biggest dilemma for graduates is where the firm offers a lump sum of £5,000 or more as inducement to go quietly. Should the graduate take the money or insist that the firm honours the offer of training? As the contract of employment is unenforceable, the graduate is entitled only to damages equivalent to the salary he or she would have received during the notice period written into the contract. Where the contract stipulates a fixed term of employment for two years' training, in theory damages would be two years' salary.

The Law Society is concerned but has no control over practice. The whole issue is scheduled for discussion by the Law Society this year. The society is, meanwhile, willing to talk to any trainee solicitors who find themselves in this position and talk to the firm on their behalf.

opposing the introduction of a no-fault scheme because it might deprive them of a large proportion of their workload. Under the system proposed, this would be unlikely, because patients are still given the opportunity to sue if they wish, and will almost certainly do so because they wish to have the large, lump sum settlements."

Taking the view that part of the motivation behind a claim is to see the doctor brought to justice, he concludes that if claimants were not able to go to court to vent their anger, they would bring disciplinary action against the doctors involved, a trend that has already started in New Zealand. Either way, the defence union will be busy.

The nick of time

DID you know that under the Pet Animals Act, 1951, children cannot legally buy pets until they are 12 years old, that children five years of age are permitted by the Children's and Young Person's Act, 1933, to drink alcohol, provided they do so at home, and that the police have the power under the Police & Criminal Evidence Act, 1984, to conduct strip searches of children as young as ten?

The Children's Legal Centre has just produced an information sheet for children and



young people, detailing the legal rights they acquire between age five and 21. Sixteen is the age at which a person is most affected by legislation — as well as being able to marry, join the armed forces (boys only), and work full-time, 16-year-olds can buy liquor, cigarettes and fireworks, and act as pilots-in-command of gliders. They have to wait until 18 to be tattooed, and until 21 to become MPs or local councillors.

SCRIVENOR

Settle for agreed compensation

Justice, in its widest sense, is unlikely to be served by the inconsistent demands of many of those campaigning for changes to personal injury laws in the field of "no fault" liability and time limits for pursuing personal injury claims, and the constant call for bigger damages.

The urgings of these campaigners are seductive when their objectives are looked at in isolation. Too often, however, they ignore totally the "paying side" of the compensation equation.

Some of these apparently good ideas are, in practice, mutually exclusive. For example, those who are calling for strict and unlimited liability, irrespective of the cost, tend to confine what should be separate calls for compensation, retribution and punishment. By doing so, they undermine

the prospects of a rational debate on the affordability of their compensation ideas, and they confuse the civil law and its remedies with the role of the criminal courts.

The unlimited-liability campaigners also undermine their own purpose by pointing often to excessive American personal injury awards as an example to be followed here and elsewhere in Europe. They fail to realise that the hearts and minds of those involved on the paying side — governments, industry and insurers — are unlikely to be won over by the media-attributed embellishments of their case.

I believe that the campaigners should attempt a consen-

sual approach by exploring the extent to which the paying side might share some, although not all, of their objectives.

Meetings designed to identify shared concerns offer the possibility of enhancing the likelihood of successfully campaigning for improvements that would be welcomed by plaintiffs' and defendants' activists alike.

One idea likely to appeal to industry and insurers as much as to plaintiffs' campaigners is the setting up of an advisory panel. This would be drawn from all interested groups and be charged with the responsibility of establishing guidelines on the levels of damages awards.

The only grouping likely to object to that is the judiciary, and possibly, with the prospect of their advancement to the Bench, the Bar. The creation of such a panel in Britain would set a good example to the rest of Europe, where inconsistencies in the levels of personal-injury awards abound.

Other aspects inviting a common approach relate to access to justice, which remains a lottery, and the need to streamline legal procedures, on which the recent Lord Chancellor's Civil Justice Review represents merely a step in the right direction.

For example, the many

judicial proceedings that follow upon mass tort disasters — inquests, public enquiries, criminal prosecutions and civil litigation (all with their different purposes) — need to be rationalised, albeit in a way that still separates compensation from accountability and punishment.

What is missing at present is a forum in which the concerns of the regular plaintiff and consumer campaigners can be explored with those regularly involved as, and on behalf of, defendants and insurers.

There will, no doubt, be much on which such a gathering would disagree, but surely all viewpoints would unite on the common objectives that

the public is entitled to achieve:

- prompt, predictable and adequate levels of personal injury compensation;
- the level of personal injury awards to be within society's financial resources;
- a system of paying personal-injury claims that does not undermine the separate need to heighten individual and corporate accountability.

If a practical working group could be established, I believe society would benefit from the common pursuit of shared compensation-reform aims, and all would be rendered better able to judge what is fair and affordable.

DAVID MCINTOSH

The author is the senior partner of Davies Arnold Cooper and co-author of Personal Injury Awards in European Community Countries.

No-fault faults

THE debate over the advantages and disadvantages of no-fault compensation schemes is likely to be a long-runner. The latest party to enter the fray is Dr Ian Simpson, the chief executive of the Medical Defence Union of Scotland, the organisation for medical practitioners accused of negligence.

He claims that countries that run no-fault schemes, such as New Zealand, do not pay a lump sum to the claimant but provide continuing financial assistance to cover the costs of care. In Britain, he says, those needs are already met by social security.

In an article to be published in the union's magazine, he says: "The defence organisations have been accused of

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Closing date for applications is Thursday, 7th March 1991. (All applications will be acknowledged within seven days of this date). First interviews will be held on 18th and 21st March 1991, second interviews will be held on 26th March 1991.

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GOLF

A long tall ally that has rescued a career

From MITCHELL PLATTS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, MELBOURNE

PETER Senior is to have two replicas made of the boom-handled putter with which he continued his rehabilitation by winning the Australian Masters on the Huntingdale course here on Sunday.

The putter has been in Senior's bag since it was given to him by Sam Torrance, under whose name it is marketed, in the summer of 1989. With it he has transformed his golfing fortunes by winning the European Open at Sunningdale and four tournaments in his native Australia, including the Open and the PGA Championships.

"No putter has ever given me a better feel, so I'm going to have a couple of spares made just in case something happens to this one," Senior said.

"I turn it upside down in the bag when I'm travelling because I can always replace the shaft should that get broken, but repairing the head would be a different matter."

Torrance, of course, has resurrected his own career with a similar implement while several players on the US PGA Seniors Tour have successfully used putters of this type to counter that debilitating affliction known as the yips.

Senior recalls missing seven putts of less than 12 inches in the first nine holes of one tournament. Then, in the Italian Open in Como in 1989, he struck a ten-foot putt four feet wide of the hole. "I even started to yip my chips," he said.

Initially he had reservations when Torrance offered him the putter. What concerned him was not so much that it was unsightly. He disliked the thought of deviating from tradition.

"I knew people were sniggering at me when I walked on the green," he said.

"I even tried to hide it by tucking the shaft under my armpit. But once I had tried it, then I couldn't put it down."

Ironically, in recent weeks Senior has come close to giving the putter a rest. Instead, he elected to persevere, and his reward came with a wonderful win here, worth Aus\$90,000, after a dramatic final round alongside Greg Norman.

"What I still find difficult to understand is how inconsistently I play nowadays, yet how I suddenly win a big tournament," Senior said. "I rarely had bad weeks earlier in my career, but I rarely won. Now I seem to miss halfway cuts here and there then suddenly win. But I'm not complaining."

That pattern is reflected by Senior's record on the 1990 PGA European Tour. He played 15 tournaments and missed the cut in seven, but won the European Open. Only two months before that success at Sunningdale he admitted that he was frightened to start his backswing, even when he had a driver in his hands.

It is a fascinating insight into how golf can play cruel tricks on the mind. But Senior has proved beyond all question that he has the strength of character to overcome adversity.

Senior, who plays in the Singapore Open this week, has a house in Surrey, where he will be based in 1991 as he attempts to top the Volvo Order of Merit.

"It is a tall order, because I'll be playing a restricted programme, as I also have several commitments in Japan," he said. "I will also need to be a lot more consistent. But it is one way to open the door to all the major championships, so I'm hoping for the best."

Princess glows with a new serenity

By JOHN HENNESSY

NOTHING, not even the growing potential of Steven Cousins, has brought greater satisfaction to British ice skating this year than the rehabilitation of Joanne Conway, the winner of the British title for the fifth time after a lapse last season. Her fourth place in the European championship in Sofia last month is achievement enough for general rejoicing but beyond that near miss for a place on the podium there was still further cause for comfort.

First, but for a triple jump or so that near-miss would have been a palpable hit, according to Sally Stapleford, chairman of the figures committee of the National Skating Association. "She was within a whisker of a medal of some sort," Stapleford declared. As it was, she was only half a point, 5.0 to 5.5, behind Marina Klismann, the athletic German champion placed third.

Second, Conway, now just short of her twentieth birthday, was not fit. A variety of setbacks, including three operations on her left foot, beset her throughout last year and she was out of action altogether from November 1989 until the end of July. Not surprisingly, her physical condition, as well as her skating, suffered. She was, she reckons, about 80 per cent fit in Sofia. The six-week interval between the Europeans and the world championships in Munich next month will help to repair that.

We are now seeing a renaissance of the Conway of her precocious, formative years, during which she became British champion for the first time at 14 and scarcely knew what it was to fail. Perhaps she was a victim of her early success. She then followed in the footsteps of John Curry and Robin Cousins (no relation to Steven) to Colorado to sit at the distinguished feet of Carlo Fassi, which surely opened glittering prospects. But the translation from the homely atmosphere of North Shields to a glamorous lifestyle high in the Rockies was too unsettling.

She fell from grace in the European championships at the NEC, Birmingham, in 1989 and was hurt still further by public criticism from Robin Cousins, who had superseded Fassi as her mentor. Later that year she was deposed as British champion and the wiseheads



Skating ahead: Conway clutches the award that will help in her preparations for the 1992 Olympic Games

THE TIMES/MINET SUPREME AWARD



1989 and was hurt still further by public criticism from Robin Cousins, who had superseded Fassi as her mentor. Later that year she was deposed as British champion and the wiseheads

were ready, albeit reluctantly, to write her off. Thereafter she was out of competition for many months on end, which strengthened the impression that she was a teenage back number.

A haunted figure then, she has now achieved a remarkable transformation, due partly to her return to her north eastern roots and to her girlfriend trainer, Debi Monte, partly to a sleeker silhouette, but mainly, I suspect, to her strength of character and personal pride.

To meet her again after more than a year, at the British team training camp at Bracknell last month was

a revelation. Not only was she again skating like a princess, with a stunning triple flip in the combination, bringing her repertoire of different triple jumps to four, but she glowed with a new serenity.

The clouds had lifted and she re-emerged, now alongside Steven Cousins (eighth in Europe at 18), as a possible saviour of the reputation of British "figure" skating, anachronistically so-called, though the compulsory figures have been consigned to history.

The Times/Minet Supreme award could not have come at a better time, since the fair-weather support she received in the good years

has mostly melted away. The windfall of £5,000 has removed another anxiety, leading her defiantly to declare: "The best is yet to come."

The Times/Minet Supreme Awards are part of a £2 million sponsorship package from Minet - the London-based firm of international insurance brokers - to help fund Britain's preparations for the 1992 Olympics. The awards, which are administered by the Sports Aid Foundation, are being made to sportsmen and women whose outstanding performances have brought distinction and honour to British sport and are likely medal contenders.

BASKETBALL

Kingston quietly seal their primacy

By NICHOLAS HARLING

RARELY can a team have collected a sporting honour amid so much indifference. Kingston retained the Carlsberg League title at the weekend without realising that they had done so until clarification of the rules yesterday confirmed that they do not, after all, have to avoid a 24-point defeat at Sunderland on Thursday.

The leaders, who have won all 19 games, had been under the impression that they would be champions so long as Sunderland did not make up the points aggregate on the two defeats they suffered in the matches between the clubs this season. But Martin Shaw, an acting administrator for the Basketball League, said yesterday that should teams finish level in the table, the number of wins in matches between them would be taken into account and not the points differential. Since Kingston have won both fixtures between the clubs, they cannot be overtaken, even if they lose their five remaining games and Sunderland win theirs.

Not even the official Kingston Call Line acknowledged the club's feat and Kevin Cadle, their coach, personified insouciance as he said: "I don't really put much concern into it. I know we would be champions two months ago. Other teams do a lot of talking but they can't handle the pressure the way we can."

Kingston were, in fact, so confident about the issue that three of their regular starters, Martin Clark, Alan Cunningham and Trevor Gordon, sat out Saturday's 100-83 defeat of the bottom club, London Docklands, while a fourth, Alton Byrd, went on a short business trip to America. The home crowd were also unaware of the club's achievement, not knowing perhaps that Sunderland's 116-99 win at Worthing was proving futile.

The Hemel Hempstead crowd's reaction to victory was rather more euphoric after Steve Darlow's last-second shot had caused the biggest upset in seasons with the 88-87 defeat of third-placed Leicester. Darlow accepted a pass from Joel Moore (27 points) to score with a slam dunk, transforming an 87-86 deficit into an improbable victory. "I could see the whites of Joel's eyes. I knew he was going to blast to me," Darlow said.

Leicester recovered from the indignity the following afternoon with a 99-96 home win over Derby, who had beaten Thames Valley Tigers the previous night by 101-98.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY

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Coombs awakens to the real world of tennis

By ANDREW LONGMORE
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

IT IS the tennis equivalent of putting down coats for golfists in the park. No linesman, call your own balls, change the scoreboard and collect the balls yourself. This is the lowest rung on the professional ladder, qualifying to get into the LTA Serve and Volley £25,000 satellite event at Eastbourne.

Lose and the prize is a T-shirt and a plastic drinking bottle (empty) win and you can come back for another match tomorrow. Win three days in a row and a precious ATP computer point is yours for the next year.

The highest ranked player is at 435, the lowest 1,013 and way below both those comes Matthew Coombs, the British 16-and-under national champion, who is testing himself in such exalted company for the first time. Coombs, aged 15, has been used to the easy life, lauding it over other British juniors in the ranks of the under-16s. At 9.10am yesterday he was still the kingpin of the under-16s; at 9.15, when he found he had been given a wild card into the qualifying event, he was facing life as a professional tennis player. The gap between the two has swallowed up a multitude of good British juniors in recent years.

"Matthew is like Ivan Lendl in his own little world. Other players look up to him," his coach, Chris Bradnam, said. "That gives him a false confidence. Today is a big day for him because this is the start of it. He is probably thinking he's got time on his side, but he hasn't because we are so far behind in terms of commitment in this country. By tonight, I might be saying 'God, there's a lot of work to do'."

Bradnam, national champion in 1983, himself knows what a long road lies ahead because he tried to make it as a professional. But all he did, he said, was learn how to fail.

Coombs has been drawn to play Adrian Morgan, one of a number of British players in the nether reaches of the ATP computer, second match on court two. Morgan, aged 20, is ranked 796, is No. 13 seed for the qualifying and, according to reports, has a big serve.

The first match on court two is interminable. Coombs has plenty of time to come to terms with his nerves. "He's thinking 'Hey, this is a professional event, these guys are playing for a living.' He's having a lot of trouble getting his mind onto the match," Bradnam said.

Back at Bradnam's centre in

Hemel Hempstead, Coombs does special mental exercises to prepare himself for such moments. He has to write down things he must work on and then go onto court and concentrate totally on them — footwork, technique, concentration. When he loses his concentration, he comes off court. The longest any of the Bradnam squad have managed is eight minutes. "A match lasts two hours. See how far they have to go," Bradnam said.

By the time he goes onto court, Coombs has walked three times round the car park and settled his mind. He starts well, winning the first two games. But, at 30-30 in the third game he serves two

double-faults. "I bet he was thinking about 3-0," Bradnam said. The balance of the match shifts instantly and he loses the next six games. A break dropped in the fifth game of the second set and the match is gone too, 6-2 6-4. "Better than I hoped," Bradnam said. "He looked as if he was playing for experience not to win the match. He should have gone to the net more, but he's spent all his life on the baseline and it's hard to change. In the juniors, he could win easily from the back of the court."

Coombs admitted both charges and said he should have served

more to the forehand. "If you win some points on the forehand, keep serving there. The other guy might get a phobia about it. It begins to read it, then change," Bradnam said. Coombs nodded. "And what were you thinking about at 2-0 in the first set when you served those double-faults?" "About going to 3-0," Coombs replied.

"Nothing in the juniors prepared me for this," he added. "It's tempting to use my age as an excuse, but I try not to think about it. This opens your eyes, wakes you up to what the real world is all about. I didn't know before."

ATHLETICS

Selectors spot the signals and put Steele in the squad

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THERE is something about 800 metres running which makes the British selectors' heads spin. For the European championships last summer, they picked an athlete who did not have a qualifying time when others had, on Sunday night, at their meeting to add names to their world indoor championship team, they left out one who they thought had not qualified.

Although the name of Martin Steele, who came within one second of Sebastian Coe's British record for 1,000 metres in the Dairy Crest Invitation at RAF Cusfold on Sunday, was added yesterday, it was only after signals had been received from the press.

Steele was lucky. When signals were received from the same source last summer, telling that Matthew Yates had not run the qualifying time they thought he had, they botched their handwork. They extended their deadline and gave Yates an opportunity to do it, even though Steve Heard had already run inside the required time on five occasions.

For a few hours yesterday, Steele thought he was going to be sent to Ghent to run a quick one. Then word came back that, yes, he did have the qualifying time.

Steele, of course, knew that the selectors did not. He had achieved it, would you believe, not at some remote meeting but on the selectors' doorstep in the AAA championships.

Steele's form, both last winter and this, presented an overwhelming case in his favour. Only Tom McKean among Britons was quicker last season, and Steele won the Omron Games and AAA title this winter. On Sunday, his 2min 19.50sec put him in third place ahead of Peter Elliott in the all-time British rankings.

An embarrassed British team manager, Les Jones, said: "We did not realise when we met that he had run well inside the qualifying time. If we were all-seeing, all-believing, we would be infallible, but we are not."

Before his selection was confirmed, Steele was preparing for an unexpected journey to Ghent. "If they say 'do 1min 49sec or you don't go to the world championships', I will go and do it," he said.

A time of 1min 49.00sec is the qualifying standard, which Steele has not beaten this season, but where the selectors had fallen down was in not realising that he had recorded 1min 47.20sec last winter.

Steele will partner Iken Billy in the world championships in Seville from March 8 to 10. One good run from Billy this winter — his 1min 47.49sec for second place behind Johnny Gray on Sunday — was sufficient to book his place.

He comes in at the expense of David Sharpe, the outdoor European silver medal-winner who has been unimpressive.

BRITISH TEAMS: World Indoor Championships: Men: 800m: L. Christie (Thames Valley), 1000m: S. Jacobs (Bristol), 1500m: S. Jacobs (Bristol), 2000m: S. Jacobs (Bristol), 3000m: P. Lattin (Wolverhampton and Bolton), 4000m: S. Jacobs (Bristol), 5000m: S. Jacobs (Bristol), 6000m: S. Jacobs (Bristol), 7000m: S. Jacobs (Bristol), 8000m: S. Jacobs (Bristol), 9000m: S. Jacobs (Bristol), 10000m: S. Jacobs (Bristol), 11000m: S. Jacobs (Bristol), 12000m: S. Jacobs (Bristol), 13000m: S. Jacobs (Bristol), 14000m: S. Jacobs (Bristol), 15000m: S. Jacobs (Bristol), 16000m: S. Jacobs (Bristol), 17000m: S. Jacobs (Bristol), 18000m: S. Jacobs (Bristol), 19000m: S. Jacobs (Bristol), 20000m: S. Jacobs (Bristol), 21000m: S. Jacobs (Bristol), 22000m: S. Jacobs (Bristol), 23000m: S. Jacobs (Bristol), 24000m: S. Jacobs (Bristol), 25000m: S. Jacobs (Bristol), 26000m: S. Jacobs (Bristol), 27000m: S. Jacobs (Bristol), 28000m: S. Jacobs (Bristol), 29000m: S. Jacobs (Bristol), 30000m: S. Jacobs (Bristol), 31000m: S. 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